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## Four cities bombed to force Iran to halt war

# Iraq pounds Tehran with more missiles

BAGHDAD, March 5, (Agencies): Iraq bombed four Iranian provincial cities today after firing more missiles at Tehran in attacks it said would continue until Iran called a ceasefire.

It said its planes attacked Kerman, Dezful, Hamadan and Poldokhtar and hit seven other industrial or military targets. The targets were in western, southwestern and central Iran.

An Iraqi military spokesman denied an Iranian report that three of the jets had been shot down. Iran said Iraqi bombing raids killed several civilians in southwestern cities.

The Iraqi spokesman said six missiles were fired at Tehran overnight and today, the last at 1.40 pm (1040 GMT).

**Vowed**

Iraq has hit the capital with about 30 missiles since Monday with the declared aim of making Iran accept United Nations ceasefire resolution 598 adopted last July.

Iraqi leaders, after a meeting today chaired by President Sad-

dam Hussein, vowed the attacks would go on.

"Our missile force will continue its legitimate deterrent operations to serve the cause of durable peace, which can only be achieved by acceptance by the Iranian regime of resolution 598," they said in a statement issued after a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and leaders of the ruling Baath Party.

"A durable peace will only be achieved after Iran's abandonment of its aggressive policy and acceptance of the resolution... that is the only clear way for peace, security and stability in the region," the statement said.

It said the "continuation of deterrent blows is a vital punishment for that criminal and bloodthirsty regime."

Iraq said today's missile attacks killed at least 19 people following the death of at least 35 on Friday.

The attacks took Iran's casualty toll in the "war of the cities" which erupted a week ago with an Iraqi air raid on Tehran, to 130 dead and more than 260 injured.

Iraq said it retaliated by firing four missiles into Baghdad and eight at Basra and other cities in southern Iraq. The Iraqi news agency said many civilians were killed.

Iraq said it fired four missiles at "military centres" in Baghdad today, making 17 since Monday. The Iraqis have acknowledged 12 hits.

### Casualty

Iraq has issued no detailed casualty statistics and has also offered no comment on an Iranian report that Revolutionary Guards destroyed a mobile rocket launching platform in central Iraq on Friday.

Iraq's INA news agency said several people had been killed or wounded by Iranian shelling of the southern city of Basra since Friday night.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a telegram to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, calling on the humanitarian organisation to help end the Iraqi missile attacks.

The Iranian agency quoted

Velayati as requesting that the Red Cross send fact-finding teams to the bombed residential quarters in Tehran.

The United States said last night it finds no change in Iran's policy on ending the Gulf war based on Tehran's latest letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

After a study of a letter dated Feb 28, a spokeswoman for the US mission, Rose Susan Bernstein, said "to the best of our knowledge, we notice no change in Iranian policy."

"The comments (about the letter) on the Evening News do not constitute an acceptance of Security Council resolution 598 on a ceasefire in accordance with customary UN procedures," she said.

She was referring to a report on an American network news programme which said the letter from Velayati to Perez de Cuellar represented a breakthrough in accepting the 7-month-old resolution.

Iraqi prisoners of war released last month by Iran said today they were beaten and tortured during five years in captivity.



Israeli soldiers armed with M-16 assault rifles and clubs guard blindfolded Palestinians arrested in a refugee camp near Ramallah. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Israelis shoot dead two

# Airborne troops attack village

JELAZOUN REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank, March 5, (Reuters): Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians in a West Bank village today and wounded several in the Gaza Strip during widespread unrest in the occupied territories, Palestinian sources said.

Helicopter-borne troops raided Jelazoun Palestinian refugee camp near the West Bank town of Ramallah, angering United Nations relief workers when they commandeered a UN school to hold prisoners.

About 50 Palestinians, blindfolded and with their hands bound, were held at the school run by the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) before being taken by bus to an unknown destination, relief workers said.

### Upset

"They have used UN property as a prison camp. I have protested this. I am more than upset—I am angry," Unrwa official Mogens Foskald said.

An Israeli army spokesman said troops opened fire in Dahariyah village, south of Hebron, but could not confirm the deaths.

Staff at Jerusalem's Makassed Hospital and Alia Hospital in Hebron said a body had been received at each.

"We have heard the reports but we have to be very cautious in a situation like this," the Israeli Army spokesman said. "We have not actually seen the bodies, so we cannot confirm the deaths."

There was a disturbance in Dahariyah this morning and a patrol opened fire after a crowd attacked them with stones and one of the soldiers was injured in the leg," the spokesman said.

Palestinian sources named the dead men as Nabil Weidat, 25, and Raseem Al Khedairi, 31.

The latest deaths brought to at least 83 the number of Palestinians killed since the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories began on Dec 9.

The sources said anti-Israeli demonstrations erupted in several towns, villages and Palestinian refugee camps in the West

Bank and Gaza Strip.

Military authorities appeared to have dropped restrictions on press access to the occupied territories and Reuters correspondents and photographers said they were allowed to travel freely throughout the area.

At least four people were wounded in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip when troops opened fire on stone-throwing demonstrators, the sources said.

The Army spokesman confirmed two protesters had been shot and taken to the town's Nasser Hospital. "One ran away after treatment, the other is hospitalised," he said.

In Ramallah, stone-throwing youths clashed with soldiers who fired tear gas and Israel Radio said troops rounded up all the male adults in the East Jerusalem Arab neighbourhood of Jabel Mukaber, arrested three and warned the others to keep the peace.

Foskald said troops fired tear gas in Jelazoun refugee camp and destroyed property in people's homes as they rounded up suspects, including at least one Unrwa staff member.

Jelazoun residents said a group of collaborators had confessed and asked forgiveness during Friday prayers in the camp's mosque and four local men had resigned from the Israeli-run police force.

### Operation

In Tunis, a senior PLO official said about 2,000 Israeli troops were involved in the airborne operation against Jelazoun.

Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said that during house-to-house searches, "the soldiers beat the people — children, women and men, with sticks and rifle butts, throwing food into the mud and breaking furniture."

"At 10 am, the Israeli forces gathered all males between 10 and 50 years old in schools of the camp and started beating them systematically, causing fractures of limbs, heads and backs," he said.

| INSIDE        |       |
|---------------|-------|
| International | 2     |
| Kuwait-Gulf   | 3,4   |
| Events        | 5     |
| Editorials    | 6     |
| Features      | 7,8   |
| Pictures      | 9     |
| Business      | 10,11 |
| Classifieds   | 12    |
| Urdu          | 13,14 |
| Sports        | 15,16 |

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Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Fallak: 15°C 59°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Fallak: 17°C 63°F

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

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## US helicopter warns away 'Iranian' boat

**ABOARD THE USS Simpson** in the Gulf, March 5, (Reuters): A high-powered speedboat raced on a near-collision course towards the US warship yesterday, but veered away when it was confronted by a Navy helicopter.

Navy officers said the fishing boat, an open craft believed to be operated by Iranians, came within a mile and a half of the Simpson at about 2:30 pm local time (1130 GMT) as the frigate escorted the US-flag tanker Gas Queen southward toward the Strait of Hormuz.

The incident occurred less than 19 miles (30 km) south of the island of Abu Musa, the site of an Iranian naval base from which Revolutionary Guards have been reported to launch speedboat attacks on passing tankers.

### Lasted

A current hull in the Gulf "tanker war" has lasted more than three weeks, but senior Navy officers told reporters they feared Iran and Iraq could renew their attacks on merchant shipping at any moment.

When the 21-foot fishing boat sped towards the frigate's starboard side yesterday off the coast of Dubai, sailors took careful aim at the intruder with mounted machine guns and a grenade launcher.

The vessel stopped only when a helicopter from the Simpson's sister ship, the frigate Samuel B. Roberts, hovered directly in its path, forcing it to stop.

The helicopter reported two men on board and no sign of weapons. The boat got underway again after the warship steamed safely ahead.

## Act quickly, urges Sabah

THE acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad has expressed hopes that the leaders of the member states of Security Council, especially the permanent ones, will respond to the message of HH the Amir quickly.

The Amir has urged them to quickly intervene to halt the Iraq-Iran war following the recent escalation of the conflict.

Sheikh Sabah said that the international community should realise the seriousness of what is going on and its repercussions on the security and stability of the region.

The president of the Security Council for this month has praised the Amir's message, Sheikh Sabah said, adding: "What is now required is an active and quick move to end the war."

## Bomb blasts at Dhaka rallies

# New polls will be held in 45 districts

DHAKA, March 5, (AP): A series of bomb blasts sent thousands of people at opposition rallies fleeing for shelter today, while the Election Commission announced fresh victories for the ruling Jatiya Party in parliamentary polls.

Reporters covering the rallies in the capital's Main Square heard at least eight explosions in quick succession just minutes after an eight-party opposition alliance denounced the balloting in which President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya Party won a landslide majority.

"We have no report of any injury from the explosions," said a police officer on duty at the Main Square where the two rallies were held.

### Unopposed

No one claimed responsibility for the blasts.

With results for 226 of the 229 seats up for election, the ruling party had won 199, including 18 in which party candidates ran unopposed because major opposition parties boycotted the balloting.

A coalition of 73 minor parties won 13 seats, while independents got 12. Two other smaller parties won one seat each.

The Election Commission, meanwhile, said it had ordered new balloting in 45 districts and votes recounted in nine other districts because of fraud and violence. It did not give a date for the new polling, nor the vote recount.

At the rallies called to protest Thursday's election, top opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia said the people would not accept the results.

"Since the people did not vote, the entire exercise has been meaningless and a farce," Hasina told a crowd of about 5,000 people.

Both women called for avoiding the election and demanded Ershad resign to make way for fresh polls under a neutral caretaker government.

The coalition of 21 parties, the main opposition group, boycotted the election and called for a general strike. Election-related violence has left at least 13 people dead and about 300 injured.

### Plan

"The nation does not want Ershad. The people reject Ershad's fraudulent polls," said Mrs Khaleda Zia during her rally attended by an estimated 5,000 people.

She said the movement to oust Ershad will continue, but gave no specific plan.

The commission resumed counting the votes at 3 pm (0900 GMT) and gave final results for six districts. It earlier had stopped announcing the election results, but gave no reason for the suspension.

The United States has expressed regret over the election violence in Bangladesh.

"We regret the violence and deaths attending the March 3 elections in Bangladesh," said State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley, in Washington.

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury is due in Washington for talks at the State Department next week to discuss the elections and other issues.

## 'Expats do not pose a danger'

KUWAIT'S Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed has said that the presence of foreign workers, including Asians, does not pose a threat to the Gulf region.

He told a local daily that the presence of a large number of foreign workers in the area is normal and there are no indications that they harm the interests or security of the six GCC states.

The minister added that concerned authorities in Kuwait and other GCC countries are currently studying the impact of increasing number of Asian maids and their effect on children's behaviour.

Sheikh Nasser also said that his ministry has established cen-



Sheikh Nasser

tres of service and society development. Some of these centres have already started their activities.

He added that the ministry is also currently preparing a comprehensive programme to train men and women at such centres in manual work.

## Respond to peace plan within 10 days: Shultz

CAIRO, March 5, (Agencies): US Secretary of State George Shultz gave four Middle East nations a new plan for Arab-Israeli peace that aims to end nearly three months of unrest in Israeli-occupied territories, a US official said today.

Shultz, who returned to Washington this morning, requested that Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria respond within 10 days to the proposal.

"I think deadlines are good things in trying to get people to make up their minds," he said. "I don't mind making use of that."

## Libya to free foreign prisoners

BEIRUT, March 5, (Agencies): Libya plans to release all foreigners detained in its jails and asked diplomats to contact the Foreign Ministry today for final arrangements, the official Libyan news agency Jana said.

Jana said the decision followed the release by Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi of 400 Libyan prisoners in Tripoli on Thursday.

"In accordance with this historic decision by the leader, all foreign prisoners will be released," Jana said.

It said the Foreign Ministry "calls on all diplomats and ambassadors to contact the ministry for the final release arrangements and to take the prisoners as of today."

### Intended

The Italian Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no concrete details of the release were given to the diplomats but it appeared that the Libyans intended to free the prisoners.

He said a few Italians were in Libyan prisons held apparently for alleged commercial violations, but added he did not have exact details about the prisoners.

## Mongrel eats baby

CALCUTTA, March 5, (Reuters): A starving mongrel strayed into a hospital at Midnapore village in India's West Bengal state and ate a newborn baby, doctors said today.

They told reporters Uttara Pal complained that the duty nurse was sleeping when her child was born on Wednesday.

"The dog dragged the baby from the senseless mother and ate it in the nearby forest," a doctor said. The government has suspended four hospital employees.

## Pakistan wants to delay signing of Afghan accord

RAWALPINDI, March 5, (Reuters): The Pakistani government met its political opponents today to try to work out a joint policy on the Afghan conflict and suggested delaying the signing of a peace accord.

An official spokesman said they might have to meet for another day.

**Signed**

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo presided over a meeting of 19 politicians invited to evolve a national consensus on a possible settlement of the nine-year-old guerrilla war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Moscow offered last month to start withdrawing its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan on May 15 if Pakistan signed an agreement by March 15. Pakistan wants a neutral transitional

government in Kabul before it signs any agreement.

Those at the talks included main opposition figure Benazir Bhutto, head of the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) alliance.

A government spokesman said Junejo and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani briefed the politicians but details of the talks were not immediately available.

**Reduced**

Information Minister Abdul Majid Abid said the meeting could continue until tomorrow.

Noorani, who returned earlier in the day from Geneva and peace talks sponsored by the United Nations, suggested delaying the signing beyond Moscow's proposed March 15 date.

Noorani told reporters he had told Moscow through UN mediator Diego Cordovez that May 15 rather than March 15 was the important date.

"There is a way in which a preparatory period between the signing and the withdrawal could be reduced from 60 days... contemplated in the original draft," he said.

He said there had been no positive response from Moscow, which says putting off the signing would mean delaying the troop withdrawal.

An agreement was nearly complete on all four points of the proposed formal settlement after the Afghan government agreed this week to complete the troop withdrawal in nine months instead of the proposed 10 months.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Transfer residence before expiry of old passport

ANY expatriate applying to transfer the residence permit from his or her old passport to a new one must apply before the expiry date of the old passport, otherwise he or she will be fined, a Kuwait Immigration Department official has said.

The official, speaking on Kuwait TV, said individuals would be fined from the expiry date of his old passport. He stressed that expatriates must renew their passports well in advance of transferring their residency.

**Violators**

Another official, Colonel Ahmad Al Wihab, said that the period for legalising the residency of children expired on Thursday, March 3. He added that there would be no further extension of the deadline.

According to the new law, bir-

ths must be registered with the Immigration Department within two months of the date of birth or legal action would be taken, Wihab said. He added that violators face a KD200 to 300 fine and/or three months imprisonment.

Al Wihab said that about 15,000 expatriates benefitted from the extended time to legalise their residency status. He added that some of these illegal expats left the country and others legalised their status.

He added that new amendments requiring expatriates to renew their residence permits one month before expiry would be strictly enforced.

The Immigration Department grants visit visas to those who meet the conditions set by the Interior Ministry, he said.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday that those who apply for residence permits for the first time, must attach a health certificate from the Health Ministry with their applications.

The ministry said that the Immigration Department from March 1, began to implement the law requiring foreigners to submit a health certificate certifying that the applicant is free from any contagious diseases when applying for residency for the first time.

The law applies to all first-time applicants of the private sector, those practising any trade, industrial or professional activities, maids and those in similar positions, family members joining expatriate residents and expatriates applying for student residency.



## INTERNATIONAL

## 31 killed in Soviet ethnic violence

MOSCOW, March 5, (AP): Ethnic violence in the southern city of Sumgait left 31 dead, the government said yesterday, and a report of at least three more deaths in another city indicated the turmoil continued to spread.

The killings in Sumgait, an industrial city 30 kms (19 miles) northwest of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, occurred on Sunday in rioting sparked by a dispute over control of another part of the republic.

An Armenian dissident, meanwhile, reported the first deaths in the neighbouring republic of Armenia as the disturbances spread. Mosef Gorgisyan telephoned the Associated Press to say that Azeris had killed his sister and two other Armenians in the city of Kirovakan.

**Occurred**  
Police denied any deaths had occurred in Kirovakan, a city 60 km (37 miles) north of the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

Government spokesmen had previously said that the Sumgait rioting, but refused to say how many had died and that those responsible were arrested. A television worker in Baku had said

one or two people were killed and called this a "small number."

In reporting the 31 deaths, the official news agency Tass did not explain why it took five days for authorities to disclose the death toll. In addition, the Tass dispatch played down the ethnic motivations of the conflict by saying the victims were "members of various nationalities, old men and women." Unofficial sources had indicated the violence had clear ethnic overtones, with the dominant ethnic population in Azerbaijan, the Azeris, attacking Armenians.

Tass blamed the Sumgait rioting on "hooligan elements provoked by disorder" and also referred to those involved as "unstable, immature people, falling under the influence of false rumours about the events in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia."

Tass appeared to be saying that rumours of confrontations between Azeris and Armenians were false, although Vladimir I. Dolgikh, a non-voting member of the ruling Politburo, has said that casualties resulted from clashes between Armenians and Azeris in Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Libyan MiGs still in Egypt, says Mubarak

CAIRO, March 5, (Reuters): Four Libyan MiG-23 fighters which landed in Egypt on Tuesday are still in the country, President Hosni Mubarak said today, contradicting reports that they had returned home.

"These warplanes are still here," he was quoted as saying by Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena). "The planes will return to Libya only after being inspected by technicians," he said.

Mubarak said he had been contacted by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and other Arab leaders whom he did not name after the four Soviet-built fighter planes landed in Egypt.

He said he told them he intended to return the aircraft to Tripoli and asked them to send technicians to inspect the MiGs. He did not explain why.

"We are a civilised country, we bear no grudge against anyone and seek no bloodshed. We made sure there were no aggressive intentions and the pilots were treated well," he said.

Libya's official news agency Jana reported on Thursday that the pilots landed their jets in Egypt because they were running out of fuel and later flew them home.

"The news agency (Jana) is free to report what it wants," Mubarak said.

Mena later published the same account and, in the absence of a government statement, this was taken as Egyptian endorsement of the Jana story.

Some Egyptian newspapers had earlier reported that the four pilots defected. Mubarak did not mention the whereabouts of the pilots in his remarks.

Five Libyan servicemen were given political asylum in Egypt last year.

**Kurds killed**  
DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, March 5, (AP): Five suspected Kurdish guerrillas were killed in a seven-hour battle with security forces in southeastern Turkey, the Hurriyet news agency reported today.

The clash yesterday began when the Kurds responded with fire to calls to surrender by security forces near Kurudere Hamlet in Dicle township, the dispatch said.

## Khaddafi foils coup bid

NICOSIA, March 5, (AP): Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi foiled an attempted coup by a group of Army officers last month, a Paris-based Arabic weekly reported. It said a soldier was killed and two wounded in the attempt.

The magazine Al-Watan, Al-Arabi, whose headquarters was seen in Cyprus yesterday, said the attempt was foiled after a clash between unidentified attackers and Khaddafi's heavily armed guards in the Libyan capital of Tripoli on the eve of Feb 2, which was followed by a wave of arrests.

The report could not be confirmed.

## Planned

The magazine quoted "special sources" in Libya as saying the attempt was planned by members of Libyan opposition tribes and Air Force officers in collaboration with foreign military experts of the same force, who provided the Soviet-made weapons for the operation.

The confrontation near a Tripoli military camp where Khaddafi resides was preceded by another one the day before in which a Libyan soldier was killed and two others wounded on the coastal road that links the two Mediterranean cities of Benghazi and Sidra, east of Tripoli.

Khaddafi's uncle, Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Al Kadhaf, who visited his nephew after the incident to congratulate him on crushing the coup attempt, told him he had information that the weapons used by the opposition-backed attackers were 50 Soviet-made automatic rifles with incendiary ammunition and 40 hand grenades, the magazine said.

## Troops will protect Sinhalese, pledges Jayewardene

## Landmine kills 19 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, March 5, (Reuters): A Tamil rebel landmine killed 19 Sri Lankans and wounded 17 today in Trincomalee district, military officials said.

Officials in Trincomalee blamed guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the explosion under a lorry at Sittaru, south of the port.

Military officials said the victims were returning home to Seruwila after weekend shopping at Kantalai.

## Killings

The six women, 11 men, and two children killed were either Sinhalese — the majority in the Indian Ocean island — or Muslims. Officials said they would not know of any Tamils among the passengers.

Tiger rebels are fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government for a Tamil homeland in the north and east.

The Tigers shot dead 14 Sinhalese and a Tamil in Morawewa village near Trincomalee on Wednesday.

Military officials thought the spate of killings was to sabotage government plans to resettle Sinhalese and Muslim refugees in their villages.

"The refugees have been quietly coming back and the terrorists want to drive them away," a senior official said.

President Junius Jayewardene pledged today that more Sri Lankan troops would be sent to Trincomalee to protect Sinhalese from rebels.

"More soldiers will be sent to Morawewa and other areas inhabited by Sinhalese to prevent further attacks by terrorists," he told a meeting of the ruling United National Party.

Military sources said about 2,000 soldiers have been deployed since last month in Sinhalese villages in Trincomalee where Tamils and Muslims also live.

## Rebellion

Sri Lanka and India signed a pact last July aimed at ending the Tamil rebellion and about 50,000 Indian soldiers were sent to the island to try to disarm the rebels and enforce the agreement.

Sri Lankan soldiers had been confined to barracks but Sinhalese refugees said they do not

have confidence in the Indian forces.

The two governments agreed in January to let Sri Lankan troops be posted in some Trincomalee villages to encourage Sinhalese and Muslim refugees return to their homes.

## Postponed

The independent Sun newspaper said the recent spate of civilian killings by Tamil rebels could be linked to the government's new plan to resettle refugees, mostly Sinhalese, in Trincomalee.

"Their demonic objectives it appears were to terrorise the Sinhalese to flee Trincomalee," it said today.

Thirty people, including 15 at Morawewa and some Tamil

rebels, were killed in four days of violence in the northern and eastern provinces.

Jayewardene said elections for autonomous councils will be held next month in four out of the nine provinces. Those in the other five have been postponed for security reasons.

The councils, which will exercise most powers enjoyed by the government, are extended to satisfy Tamil demands for more authority in areas where they are in the majority.

Jayewardene yesterday indefinitely postponed the March 21 by-election at Homagama, south of Colombo. Government officials said this was also because of the poor security situation.

## Shiv Sena calls for boycott of Sikh businesses and shops

BOMBAY, March 5, (Agencies): A right-wing Hindu party today called for a boycott of Sikh businesses and shops if Sikh religious leaders do not move to punish extremists who killed 34 people in Punjab state.

The call was issued at a news conference by Bal Thackeray, chief of the Shiv Sena, the party which controls the local administration in Bombay and recently merged with the Punjab-based Hindu Shiv Sena.

Sikh gunmen opened fire on a holiday gathering late Thursday night in Punjab, killing 34 people and injuring about 45 others. The victims included Hindus and Sikhs.

Police blamed the attack on the Khalistan Commando Force, one of a dozen underground Sikh extremist groups. The militants have been agitating since 1982 for more autonomy or an independent homeland in Punjab. Hundreds of people have died in Sikh hit-and-run attacks.

Thackeray told the news conference that Sikh high priests

should use their powers to excommunicate Sikh extremists in an effort to stop the blood letting.

"If they condemn the killings and excommunicate those responsible, extremists will cease to be Sikhs and cannot demand a separate Sikh homeland," Thackeray said.

Thackeray said that if the high priests did not begin taking action against Sikh extremists within the next 15 days, the Shiv Sena would lead an anti-Sikh boycott.

## Resignations

"We want a non-violent boycott of all Sikhs in India," Thackeray told the news conference. "No one should buy goods from them. We will not allow their trucks to ply on the roads."

Thackeray and Jagdish Tangri, leader of the party in Punjab, jointly called for the resignations of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Home Minister Buta Singh for failing to stem the violence in Punjab.

Shiv Sena has wide support in Bombay and has recently been stepping up activities to try to develop a wider base in the north. The Punjab wing claims to have 83 units in Punjab, three neighbouring states and New Delhi.

Meanwhile, at least five more people were killed in the strife-torn Indian state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The new killings were reported as most big towns in Punjab were shut down by a general strike called by Hindu revivalist groups to protest against the carnage, the worst this year.

PTI said suspected Sikh gunmen shot dead three people in a village in Gurdaspur district this morning and two extremists were killed in an encounter with security forces near Amritsar last night.

Police and political sources in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and Chandigarh, the state capital, said all shops, offices, schools and colleges were closed in most of the big towns.

## 31 communists detained in Manila

MANILA, March 5, (Reuters): Philippine police today arrested 31 communist rebels today in an apartment two blocks from police headquarters in the Philippine capital Manila.

The arrest occurred a day after President Corazon Aquino vowed to pursue an "unrelenting campaign" against communist and rightist rebels opposed to her two-year-old government.

## Seized

The military has said communist guerrillas waging a 20-year-old insurgency killed at least 150 soldiers and policemen in urban areas in 1987. The guerrillas say they carried out about half of the killings.

## Imelda wants to return

MANILA, March 5, (Reuters): Imelda Marcos, wife of deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos, says she hopes to return to the Philippines from exile in Hawaii but has no plans of challenging the power of President Corazon Aquino.

"I feel like a Jew pursuing my Israel," she said in an interview broadcast today over the private Channel 7 television station.

"I have no political ambition," said Mrs Marcos, once described by critics as the Philippines' Evita Peron. Channel 7 said the interview took place in Hawaii earlier this year.

Last month Aquino's emissaries met Marcos in Hawaii after he let it be known he would be willing to negotiate for permission to return.

Aquino has said she would only negotiate with Marcos, forced into exile after a 1986 Church-backed military revolt, if he returned "what he stole from the people."

The government has accused Marcos of enriching himself during his 20-year rule by robbing the national treasury of up to \$10 billion.

Mrs Marcos said she longed to come back as a private citizen to satisfy an "obsession to uplift the poor from deprivation," and not to try to grab power from Aquino.

"It is a very frustrating situation because I see my poor countrymen in danger. They are living in poverty but you cannot do anything about it (from here)," she said, speaking in the Tagalog language of the Philippines.

Mrs Marcos occupied powerful positions in the government of her deposed husband. But in the interview she denied she was obsessed with power.

Manila police chief Brigadier General Alfredo Lim said police in today's raid seized three guns, a grenade and documents linking the men to rebel activities.

He told reporters the suspected rebels had been under surveillance for a month following reports that some of them were responsible for a series of ambushes in the central province Albay last year.

"The arrests are part of our continuing fight against insurgents," said Lim, adding he would charge the 31 with illegal possession of firearms.

Many of the men were in the early 20s and wore T-shirts, jeans and rubber sandals when taken into custody. They denied

they were New People's Army (NPA) rebels, saying they came to Manila to look for jobs.

## Hitmen

Natividad Pisingan, owner of the apartment, told reporters her flat was used as a boarding house for workers applying in Manila for jobs in the Middle East.

Yesterday, five suspected communist hitmen shot dead a Philippine Marine sergeant and a policeman in the Manila district Pasig, the military said.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos this week estimated communist rebel strength at between 23,000 and 25,000 men, about half of them armed with high-powered rifles.

## Foreigners advised to leave Lebanon

## Schray plans to stay in Beirut

BEIRUT, March 5, (Reuters): Former hostage Ralph Schray, who returned to Beirut today just two days after being freed, said today he planned to spend the rest of his life in Lebanon.

"I'm happy that I'm free. This place is my country and that's where I've lived all my life and that is the place where I'll be living all my life," said Schray, whose father is German and mother is Lebanese.

He said he did not know where he was held captive and was blindfolded some of the time but was well-treated.

"I was treated very well. I never saw any of the kidnappers, who took turns guarding me. At one time two or three would guard me but I never saw them," he told a news conference in West Beirut.

## Relaxed

Schray, flanked by his Lebanese wife Rana and other relatives, looked in good health and relaxed.

He said he was kept blindfolded some of the time but was not interrogated by the kidnappers and was not moved around much.

"They used to let me read newspapers and novels and watch television. The food was good," he said.

The 30-year-old engineer said he did not see German hostage Rudolf Cordes, seized in January last year, or any of the other 26 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

He was kidnapped on January 27 by gunmen demanding the release of two Shiite Muslim Lebanese held in Germany for hijacking and abduction.

Schray was freed on Thursday and taken by Syrian troops to Damascus, where he stayed at the German Embassy.

Asked if he felt in danger of being kidnapped again in Beirut he said: "I'm not a German."

Schray read a statement in



Freed West German hostage Ralph Schray speaks to reporters during a news conference in West Beirut yesterday, as his wife Rana looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arabic thanking Syrian President Hafez Al Assad for "contributing to my release and my return to my family in Beirut."

## Urged

Meanwhile a Muslim militia chief today urged foreigners to leave Lebanon as the search continued in Sidon, South Lebanon port city for two missing Oxfam relief officials, a Briton and a Syrian.

"I advise all foreigners to leave Lebanon because none of the parties, people, official institutions or Palestinians could ensure protection for them," said Mustapha Saad, who leads a Sunni militia group called the Popular Liberation Army (PLA).

Saad, angered by the abduction of five foreigners in the south over the past month, said the Oxfam officials, Briton Peter

Coleridge and his Syrian colleague Omar Trabulsi, were held by Palestinians for investigation.

Saad played a key role last month in freeing two UN Scandinavian relief workers 26 days after they were seized in Sidon. Twelve days later gunmen seized US Marine Colonel William Higgins in Tyre, a few kilometres further south.

At least 26 foreigners are believed kidnapped in Lebanon. Saad said Coleridge, 44-year-old Middle East Oxfam Charity Group, and Trabulsi, head of its Lebanon operations, were seized on Thursday after Coleridge took pictures at the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp.

Derrick Bleakley, First Secretary at the British Embassy, told Reuters the embassy had no confirmation of Saad's report.

## Respond to peace plan within 10 days: Shultz

(Continued from Page 1)

members of the UN Security Council — would be sponsors, said a US official.

None of the sponsors would have veto power over the outcome, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The plan would start with an international peace conference to start May 1, the official said. Negotiations on an interim stage of self-rule would begin six months later, the outcome of which would decide whether talks on a permanent settlement take place, he said.

The plan proposes limited autonomy in the occupied territories for three years. The second-stage talks would last a year.

Earlier, President Mubarak of Egypt endorsed the peace plan. "These are encouraging proposals," Mubarak said meeting with Shultz in Cairo, Shultz's last stop in a whirlwind series of meetings.

Mubarak said the proposals would enhance "the welfare of the people in the Middle East, including the Israelis."

Shultz said earlier that under the plan, Israel would negotiate with a joint delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel also would negotiate with Syria over the Golan Heights.

"There is an attitude of a readiness to work to change things that should be taken advantage of by everybody," Shultz said yesterday. "The moment can be lost."

The PLO said today that the US peace plan was a plot intended to curb a 12-week-old Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories.

King Hussein of Jordan consulted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on US proposals, it was announced in Damascus today.

## Blast kills 10

NEW DELHI, March 5, (Reuters): Ten women died today when chemicals they were handling in a south Indian explosives plant burst into flames, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The factory was near the port of Cochin in Kerala state.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Plane crash

JOHANNESBURG, March 5, (AP): Police suspect that a suicidal passenger detonated a suitcase full of explosives, causing a mid-air explosion that killed all 17 people aboard a twin-engine plane, newspapers reported today.

Johannesburg newspapers, quoting police sources, said one of the passengers aboard the turboprop plane had been heavily in debt and had taken out a 180,000-rand (\$90,000) life insurance policy shortly before the domestic flight that crashed on Tuesday.

The victims included 13 South Africans, two of them crewmen, and four European tourists — Mr and Mrs Fritz Pavandro of Vienna, Austria, and Mr and Mrs Otto Mueller of Hamburg, West Germany.

## Seoul clash

SEOUL, South Korea, March 5, (AP): Police fired tear gas today to disperse about 300 people demanding the release of all political prisoners in front of a Seoul University.

There were no reports of arrests or injuries in the 40-minute demonstration in front of Yonsei University, which started when protesters began throwing rocks and firebombs at police.

The protesters were among 1,000 people who took part in a three-hour rally inside the Christian-founded school, demanding the release of all political prisoners.

## 5 killed in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG, March 5, (Reuters): Crowds of black youths burned hearses and killed at least five undertakers' employees in Soweto after rumours that funeral firms were kidnapping children for witchcraft, undertakers said today.

"All black undertakers are being attacked," said funeral director Daniel Kopane, who lost a brother and a cousin when a crowd burned one of his vehicles and killed its three crew in Soweto, South Africa's biggest black township, yesterday.

## Monks protest

BEIJING, March 5, (Reuters): Protesters beat police and destroyed vehicles in Lhasa, Tibet, today, the last day of a Buddhist festival when hundreds of monks boycotted in protest against the Chinese authorities, an official Chinese report said.

## Pakistan wants to delay ...

(Continued from Page 1)

The Kabul delegate also said half the Soviet force would leave in the first three months.

Creation of an interim government, which Pakistan calls a "second track," was not on the agenda at the Geneva talks.

Pakistan says the five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran would not feel safe to return home if the present Kabul government remained in power.

Supply of arms to Afghan rebels from abroad increased before the Geneva talks on conflict resumed this week, Communist Party newspaper Pravda said today.

The newspaper said its correspondent in Kabul was told that the leaders of Afghan guerrillas "planned to stock up as much arms and units of military equipment in Afghan territory as possible before the Geneva agreements went into force."

## Girl born with 2 heads, 3 arms

NAPLES, Italy, March 5, (AP): A woman gave birth yesterday to a baby girl with two heads and three arms, hospital officials reported.

The infant, weighing 3.8 kilograms (8.3 pounds), was listed in good condition, but doctors said the baby was not expected to live beyond a few days.

The child has one heart and two spinal columns, according to a Loretto Mare Hospital report.

The 38-year-old mother was a woman of excellent health who had previously given birth to a perfectly normal child, Mariano Iaccarino, head of the hospital maternity ward, told the Ansa news agency.

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## Jaafar urges media to highlight Islamic issues

KUWAIT'S Information Undersecretary, Abdel Aziz Jaafar yesterday hailed Iraq's positive response to the peace calls issued by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and other international bodies, particularly the Security Council resolution 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war raging since Sept 1980.

Speaking at the opening meetings of the executive council of the Islamic Broadcasting Organisation (IBSO), Jaafar expressed hope that Iran would follow in Iraq's footsteps to realise a speedy halt to the conflict.

The Kuwaiti information official relayed greetings of Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad to the participating delegations, pointing out to IBSO's general assembly meetings to be held March 7-9 under the auspices of HH the Amir.

**Gratitude**  
He added that these meetings coincide with the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in the face of the Zionist repression. Jaafar called for "serious"

press work to reach the best results possible in order to serve the Arab and Islamic issues and "unify our voice and ranks."

In an opening address, chairman of the executive council and Saudi Information Undersecretary Dr Fouad Al Farsi expressed his deep gratitude for the Kuwaiti government for hosting these meetings, saying, "this is not new to Kuwait which supports Islamic causes."

**Unity**  
In another speech, representative of the OIC's Secretary General, Abu Bakr Fal, conveyed the appreciation of IBSO's chairman to HH the Amir for his various efforts to unify the Muslim world, praising the Amir's wisdom and far-sightedness which played a chief role in boosting the image of the OIC.

The Amir of Kuwait is the current chairman of the OIC which held its fifth summit in Kuwait in January last year.

Regarding IBSO's agenda, Fal stressed the necessity of examining the positive as well as the negative aspects of the organisation's work in order to overcome

the hardships which obstruct its march which began in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 1975.

He emphasised the leading role played by IBSO in confronting the various propaganda campaigns, launched by enemies of the Islamic nation.

**Contributions**  
The OIC representative also touched on some of the financial obligations of IBSO because some of the members were late in turning in their contributions to the organisation's budget, calling for intensive efforts to realise intended goal of the organisation.

He expressed thanks for the Amir for his continuous financial backing of the organisation, as well as King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for enriching IBSO with various television and radio programmes.

In conclusion, he called on all the attendees to stand and observe a minute of silence for martyrs of the Palestinian uprising, urging for backing the just struggle of the Palestinian people.



● Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah (left) received the Syrian Ambassador to Kuwait Issa Darweesh in his office yesterday.

## University jobs for Kuwaiti graduates

DR Kazem Behbehani, the assistant rector of Kuwait University for Research Affairs, said 23 Kuwaiti graduates would be interviewed for 10 jobs in the department and denied rumours that someone in the library department was opposing

Kuwaitis who applied for work in the department.

Behbehani said training courses were offered for the staff, but accused some employees of not wanting to improve or develop their skills.

He said that there are many cases of husbands and wives working in the same area which interfered with their work. He added that it had been decided to have wives and husbands separated so they would be working in different areas.

The library department is conducting a survey to determine the needs of graduate students in terms of research and library materials, he said.

Behbehani said there are 260 library employees at the different university faculties, of which 33 per cent are Kuwaiti nationals.

## Efforts to ease shortage of medical supplies

IBRAHIM Al Mudhaf, the Assistant Undersecretary for Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment at Kuwait's Public Health Ministry said the ministry had taken emergency steps to alleviate the shortage of pharmaceuticals at clinics, hospitals and health centres. Headed that the ministry had allocated KD4 million for the purchase of pharmaceutical supplies and medical equipment.

Al Mudhaf said the ministry had instructed the officials in charge of its medical stores to prepare inventories of the required items so purchase orders could be prepared prior to importing the needed items.

He added that KD360,000 worth of medical and pharmaceutical supplies had been sent to Beirut in response to a Cabinet decision.

## Rashed to open cultural fund meeting

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs and head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed today inaugurates the meeting of the international fund for supporting cultural activities.

Kuwait's Education Minister and acting Higher Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri is scheduled to deliver a speech on the occasion.

The three-day meeting will discuss a number of issues relevant to the fund's activities during the coming period.

The fund was established to boost cultural activities worldwide and to support national and regional institutions, besides creative artists, working in the field of culture.

**Contributions**  
Resources of the fund are voluntary contributions extended by governments, organisations

affiliated to the UN, private law institutions, societies, individuals, in addition to other sources.

Since its establishment in 1977, and until April 1987, the fund participated in the execution of 244 projects, in 81 countries.

Voluntary contributions to back the fund's activities, totalling, until April 1987, about \$3.5 million.

The fund's administrative council members, 15, are selected by the Unesco's general directors.

The council includes the chairman, Bashir Bakri (Sudan) President of National Bank of Sudan and former ambassador of Sudan to France, and members Karel Herman Beyen (Netherlands) who is managing director of the International Financial Advisory Services, Yves Cazaux (France) former prefect, former chairman of the "Société des gens de Lettres", professor M.C. Subhadradis Diskul (Thailand) rector of Silpakorn University, Marie Eliou (Greece), Sociologist, professor at the University of Janina, William Eteki-Mboumoua, (Cameroon), Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Kyu-Taik Kim (Republic of Korea) former president of the International Cultural Society of Korea.

**Preparations for justice ministers conference**  
MOHAMMED Hamad Al Roumi, the Chairman of the Information and Public Relations Committee of the 6th Conference of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers, said a committee had been formed by Kuwait's Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Othman to prepare for the conference to be held in Kuwait from April 2 to 5.

Al Roumi said the opening session would be held under the auspices of HH the Amir at Kuwait's Conference Centre and the remaining sessions would be held at Kuwait Hilton Hotel.

The organisational committee will be headed by the ministry's Undersecretary Nasser Mohammad Al Roumi with assistants and top ministry officials acting as members.

Twenty-one Arab countries are expected to participate in the conference.

**National Day celebrations end**  
A CEREMONY was held yesterday evening to mark the end of Kuwait's celebrations of its 27th National Day which fell February 25.

Token units of the Army, Police and National Guards, in the presence of members of the higher committee to celebrate the National Day, brought down the national flag.

Kuwait had started festivities to mark its independence anniversary last February 15 by hoisting the flag at the Flag Square.

## Orientation course in nutrition

FOUZIYA Al Awadi, the director of the Food and Catering Department at Kuwait's Public Health Ministry, said the orientation course in food nutrition had been completed by 12 schools so far. She added that the course was offered in an attempt to increase the nutritional awareness among school health personnel.

Al Awadi said the Council of Food Affairs had formed a special work team from the Scholastic Activity and Foods and Preventive Health Departments of the Health and Education Ministries as well as Kuwait Municipality. The team had prepared regulations for the food and catering services at schools, she said.

The team also proposed the information of special committees to visit schools, she said, and to check that the regulations were being followed; reporting violations to authorities. (Arab Times)

## Formative arts exhibition

THE Kuwait Society for Formative Arts have completed preparations for the 20th General Exhibition and will accept works of plastic art by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti artists who wish to participate in the exhibition.

The exhibition offers a unique opportunity for expatriate plastic artists to have their works exhibited.

A special planning committee for the exhibition is chaired by Mahmood Al Radwan, with Ali Nouman, Yousef Al Qatami, Saud Al Faraj and Moudi Al Hajji as members.

All proposed works should be submitted to the organising committee at the society's premises in

**Egyptian envoy**

KUWAITI Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Othman yesterday received Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Rafat.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways of improving judicial cooperation between Kuwait and Egypt. (Arab Times)

Hawally not later than Tuesday, March 15. For additional information, contact the Society for Formative Arts.

## UK team due to arrive

A BRITISH Parliamentary delegation is arriving today on a one-day visit to Kuwait, it was announced yesterday.

The delegation, composed of Labour and Conservative parties members of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, will also be visiting other countries of the region.

During their stay here, the British delegation members will hold a meeting with acting Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and confer with him on latest developments in the Arab world.

The British delegation will also hold a series of meetings with Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Mohammad Al Osaimi. (Arab Times)

## Coordination of agricultural policies needed

ARAB Agricultural Experts on Thursday called for coordinating the Arab agricultural policies in order to realise the ideal utilisation of Arab agricultural resources.

At the conclusion of meetings held at the headquarters of the Arab Planning Institute, the experts emphasised the need for correcting the agricultural policies which cannot be implemented in isolation from the other economic and social aspects.

The meeting were opened last Monday and were inaugurated by the director general of the agriculture and fisheries affairs authority Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah.

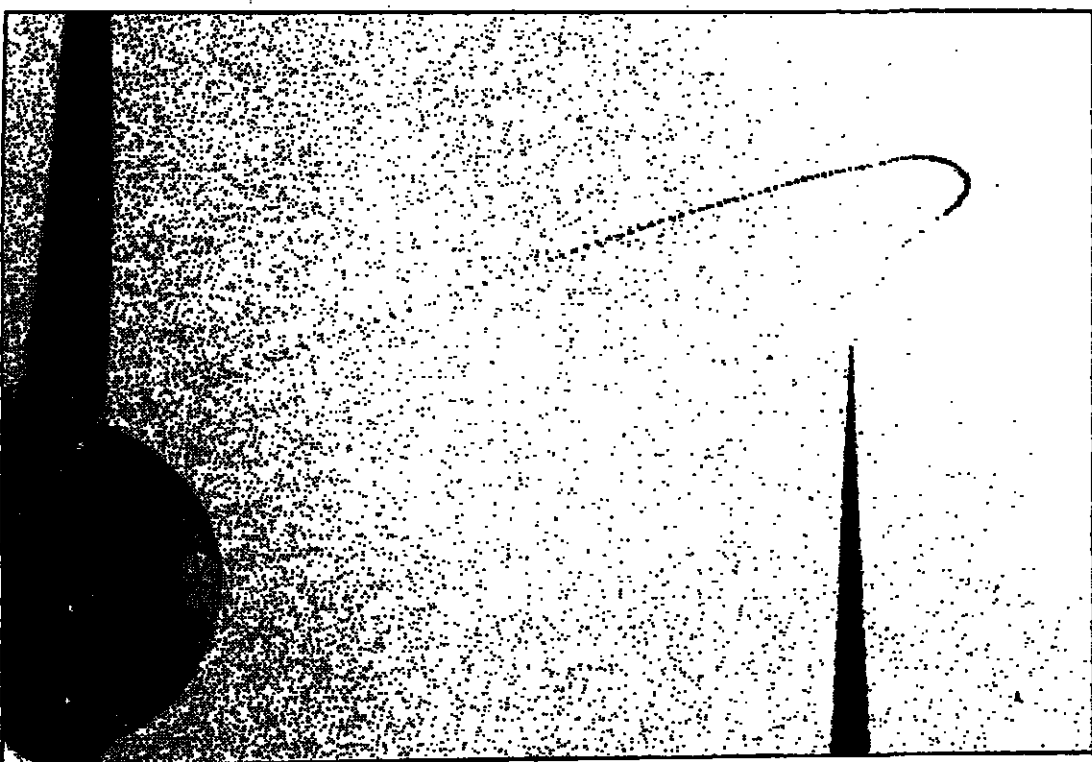
## Murderer of woman and child arrested

THE murderer of a Jordanian woman and her four-year-old child, who were stabbed to death and burnt in their apartment last Sunday, has been arrested, according to an Interior Ministry's public relations department announcement.

It added that the crime was unearthed last week in Salimiya when fire fighters broke into an apartment to put out a fire and there they found the charred bodies of the two victims with knife wounds.

The release noted that the suspect, Samir J., a Jordanian, had confessed during interrogation with the Hawalli Criminal Investigation Department to committing the crime and burning the flat to hide his crime.

The husband of the murdered woman was at work when the crime took place.



The 300-metre kite train arches above Kuwait's landmark Towers.

## Kites form arch over Kuwait Towers

EIJI OHASHI, one of Japan's leading kite masters, flew a train of kites at 300 metres, forming an arch over the Kuwait Towers.

The kite arch, an invention of Ohashi's, flying on Kuwait's National Day, challenged a first world-wide trial to fly an arch of kites over an architectural structure. Ohashi plans to fly the same type of kites at the Eiffel Tower in mid-July.

Ohashi said that he appreciated the encouragement accorded by Kuwait and looked forward to other opportunities to further the goodwill and mutual understanding between Japan and Kuwait.

## Pakistani aid for Palestinians

THE Government of Pakistan announced that it would send Rs. 5 million worth of medical supplies to assist Palestinians in occupied Palestine. Steps are being taken to despatch the supplies as quickly as possible.

The decision was made by the Pakistani government following the appeal of Yasser Arafat, PLO chairman, to the Muslim community to assist Palestinians.

Relief goods worth Rs. 5 million will also be sent by the Pakistani government to assist the people of Lebanon.

## Kuwaiti lady involved in social welfare work in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, March 5. (Kuna): A Kuwaiti lady residing in Islamabad is gradually becoming a leading figure and focus of attention in the social life of the Pakistani capital.

Taking a start 16 months ago from the Family Planning field Mrs Badria Yaqout has gone into a number of other fields related to the social welfare of the womenfolk in Islamabad.

Her devotion and flair for social welfare work has won for her prominent positions in four welfare-oriented private organisations.

Mrs Yaqout is the chairperson of the Friends of all Pakistan Women's Association, president of the Hand-in-Club, convenor of Sukh Ghar (a Family Planning institution) and trustee of Poor Girls Marriage Fund.

No other foreign lady living in Pakistan's capital enjoys this unique position and popularity.

**Handicrafts**  
Mrs Yaqout, whose husband, is Kuwait's Ambassador in Pakistan, has joined hands in right earnest with local women leader in their drive to eradicate illiteracy amongst womenfolk, teach them various types of handicrafts and help them stand on their feet, particularly the orphan and the poor. In doing so she is making a full use of the

experience she gained in Paris, Peking, Rome and Abu Dhabi when Qasim Omar Al Yaqout was posted there as a Kuwaiti diplomat.

One field in Islamabad where Mrs Yaqout has lately concentrated more is the movement to banish, jahaz, (dowry system) which is a major social evil in Pakistan.

Dowry, she said in an interview, was alien to Islam and must be discarded in all the Islamic societies. Dowry is a real curse and the Pakistani society should get rid of it just like the Arab countries, she remarked. Innumerable young girls in Pakistan cannot get married just because their parents are poor and cannot afford expensive dowries.

**Medical aid**  
Mrs Yaqout's concerted but unassuming role in the uplift of poor women has drawn plaudits from a number of prominent personalities in the capital. Among them is the First Lady of Pakistan, Mrs Shafiq Zia-ul-Haq who has appointed her as trustee of a fund for helping poor girls in meeting their wedding day expenses, no dowries.

The residence of the Kuwaiti ambassador in the diplomatic enclave of Islamabad is often the hub of activities of these four welfare related organisations.

There the members of these organisations meet over a cup of coffee and discuss plans aimed at improving the lot of Pakistani womenfolk, particularly those living in adjoining villages. Besides highly educated Pakistani ladies, wives of foreign diplomats based in Islamabad attend these gatherings.

During such gatherings donations are also sought and collected which are then allocated for various welfare schemes launched in and around the capital. Medicines are bought for treatment of poor women. A medical aid van donated by the local Dutch embassy is sent twice or three times a week to treat poor sick women of these villages. Teachers are engaged for literacy work and trainers for imparting vocational knowledge of sewing, knitting and other handicrafts. Raffles are also held at such meetings the proceedings of which go for women's welfare.

"I really enjoy this kind of work," said Mrs Badria Yaqout, adding that she was convinced that all the time she spent for this work was worthwhile.

This was like a missionary work and as such it was a great source of personal satisfaction, she said and expressed her resolve to remain deeply linked with it as long as Mr Yaqout served Kuwait in Pakistan.

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# Sheikh Sabah holds talks on uprising with PLO official

ACTING Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, yesterday conferred with visiting assistant secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and member of the PLO's executive committee Yasser Abed Rabo on the current Palestinian popular uprising.

The meeting was attended by director of the PLO office in Kuwait Awad Battash. Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the discussions centred on the uprising, results of the seven-man Arab League committee assigned to follow up and support the uprising and its future moves.

The committee, grouping Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq and Palestine in addition to Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi had met at the League's headquarters in Tunis last month and set a plan to implement Arab resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The members further discussed means of supporting the uprising including contacting Security Council members, especially the permanent ones, and various international groups and organisations to rally their support.

Sheikh Sabah expressed hopes that the Palestinian revolt would

realise its target of ending Israeli occupation of the Arab lands.

Abed Rabo said that he discussed with Sheikh Sabah developments of the Palestinian popular revolution in the occupied territories and the PLO's resolution to escalate it and to mobilise potentials of the Palestinian people within and outside the occupied homeland to ensure its continuation.

He told reporters that he affirmed to Sheikh Sabah the PLO's rejection of the self-rule plan carried by US Secretary of State George Shultz. The plan targets containing the Palestinian uprising and damaging its accomplishments, he elaborated.

The PLO official voiced the Palestinian leadership's appreciation to stands of Kuwait in quickly supporting invitation of Algerian President Chadli Ben Jedd to hold an emergency Arab summit to discuss the uprising and adopt a political and practical stance to bolster the Palestinian uprising under leadership of the PLO. He pointed out that the PLO had supported Ben Jedd's call.

**Commitment**  
Abed Rabo renewed the PLO's commitment to the convening of an international Mideast peace conference "the sole framework" and rejection of all unilateral or bilateral set-

tlements.

He also stressed that the settlement should be based on UN resolutions that guarantee the Palestinian people's rights of return, self-determination and establishment of an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

The Palestinian official said that the PLO will pursue contacts with various brothers and friends and at the Security Council to adopt effective measures to end Zionist terrorism against the Palestinian people and withdraw occupation troops from the Palestinian lands under international supervision.

He explained that the step is the only way out under prevailing circumstances.

**Contacts**  
Asked on reports of a near visit of PLO political department head Farouk Kaddoumi to Damascus, Abed Rabo said that contacts are underway with the Syrian leadership to prepare for a meeting at the highest level between Syria and the PLO in the few coming weeks. "From our part we hope that the efforts will entail positive results," he added.

He announced meanwhile, that the Soviet Union had told the PLO that Moscow totally rejects the ideas carried by US Secretary of State and that "they

only were meant to abort the uprising."

The Soviets have reiterated their backing to the international conference and the PLO's independent representation in it and to Palestinian national rights as basis for such a conference and that Moscow refuses any solution outside the international frame.

Shultz' plan further targets perpetuating the autonomy rule, he charged, adding that the PLO rejects autonomy whether temporary or perpetual because there is no self-rule formula outside the rejected Camp David accords.

He strongly denied that any contacts had taken place between the PLO and the US while asserting that he who wants to discuss anything related to the Palestinian people should contact the PLO only.

**Tunis:** A special seven-member Arab League committee will visit the capitals of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss an international Mideast peace conference and the Palestinian uprising, League sources said today.

Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi has met with the ambassadors of the United States, The Soviet Union, France, Britain and China to discuss the calendar of the visits.

## Changes to be made at the Health Ministry

MINISTER of Health Dr Abdul Razzaq Al Abdul Razzaq was quoted as saying that the ministry is currently undergoing a comprehensive study to change the organisational structure in the ministry.

Dr Abdul Razzaq told a Kuwaiti newspaper that he is against the implementation of the "administrative reform" by ending the services of the top officials of the ministry, noting that such a method is very tough measures against the citizens.

He pointed out that there are a number of means to achieve the administrative reform such as developing the cadres.

Abdul Razzaq, who took office last January, affirmed that the ministry will carry on developing the administrative officials, and the Kuwaiti physicians will be sent to work in the specialised services departments in the hospitals instead of administrative centres.

Criticising the psychiatric hos-

pital services in the country and describing it as "shameful", the minister indicated that the ministry will make a complete change in these services.

However, Abdul Razzaq stressed that the priority be given to dental projects, saying that current dental services are insufficient.

Medical treatment charges in private clinics and hospitals will be reconsidered through the formation of a committee that includes the Health Ministry and the private health sector, the minister said.

Regarding medicine charges, the minister said that the issue is very complicated and needs a practical and scientific study in order to reach a suitable decision.

There will also be further restrictions on sending Kuwaiti patients abroad for treatment, the minister added, and noted that the ministry will not allow any favouritism following the setting up of the new regulations.

## Legislative development

ABDUL Aziz Al Dakheel, the Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, said a number of new legislative regulations were being considered as part of the overall legislative development process.

He said that the construction of the Palace of Justice, built under the directives of HH the

Amir, was an indication of the importance the government attaches to the judicial system in the country.

Al Dakheel said that a computer centre was established at the ministry in 1980 to facilitate administrative operations and microfilm was used in the Department of Real Estate Registration and Documentation.

## ROYAL COURT

### Amiri audience

HH the Amir received this morning acting Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

## KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

### Shultz' second Mideast tour

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday warned against US Secretary of State George Shultz' second stop in the Middle East and described his new plan as incomplete and incapable of reaching the level of the conflict and its effects on the region.

The Al Rai Al Aam editorial said the American overture seeks to divide the conflict into separate questions of West Bank and Gaza, Jerusalem, the Golan and eventually the problem of South Lebanon. The plan, the paper added, also gives Israel the "right" to accept or reject the form of Palestinian representation in the peace negotiations which the plan suggested to start next May.

"Shultz' plan gave Israel such privilege due to Israel-American partnership considerations which are based on discounting the Palestine Liberation Organisation and stripping it of its role as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians", the paper said.

The paper went on to say that the American plan attempts to create certain impressions that the Palestinians inside the occupied Arab territories are different from those outside, who are the only ones qualified to participate in the negotiations.

The paper noted that Shultz' plan aims at containing the current Palestinian uprising and retreating on behalf of Israel, for the revolt by hinting that the PLO has no relation with what is going on inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### Iran's last chance to end war

AL Watan newspaper yesterday warned that Iran has a last and final chance to end the seven-and-a-half-year-old war with Iraq which it said is resulting in grave consequences for the Iranian people.

The paper added in its editorial that the only side which is benefitting from Iran's refusal to accept the Gulf war ceasefire resolution adopted last July is Israel and those who supply Iran with missiles for use against civilians.

These countries which support Iran, aim to cover up their crimes against the Arab nation, especially the Palestinian people, the paper noted.

What better services could be offered Zionism in Washington than that of the stubborn Iranian stance of refusing the ideas of holding negotiations with Iraq and insisting on prior inquiry into who started the war in September 1980.

Iraq renewed its advice to Iran to direct its military forces to Tel Aviv to silence Israel from continuing its suppressive practices in the occupied lands.

## 70 Pakistani fishermen arrested in Oman

MUSCAT, March 5, (AP): An estimated 70 Pakistani fishermen were arrested in Oman today.

They were arrested aboard 14 fishing boats off the north coast of Masirah Island on the Gulf of Oman by Omani Coast Guard officers. The sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said there were at least five men on each boat fishing. They were taken under escort to the port of Mina Qaboos for questioning.

The sources, who would not be further identified, did not give the exact date of the arrest.

It was the second time in a year that Pakistani fishing boats have been caught operating illegally in Omani waters, Pakistani diplomats confirmed today. After the last incident in May, the detainees were fined and repatriated.

"We do not yet know the exact numbers involved this time," a Pakistani embassy spokesman said. "We are still waiting for details."

### Al Jassar in Cairo

CAIRO, March 5, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Minister for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Khalid Al Jassar, held a meeting here today with his Iraqi counterpart Abdullah Fadil Abbas Ali.

A similar meeting was held here today between Jassar and his Egyptian counterpart Mahmud Mahjoub.

The three ministers who are participating in the Islamic call conference here, discussed matters concerning greater cooperation between their countries in the field of Islamic call and Islamic affairs.

Oman operates a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and permits only one country, South Korea, to fish in its waters. "This Korean pay royalty of one third of their catch to Oman which have no deep sea fishing fleet of its own."

Meanwhile, three Omani fishermen drifting helplessly for five days in shark-infested waters were picked up alive by a police helicopter, the Royal Oman Police reported.

**Search**  
Rescuers spotted their fishing boat 20 miles off the north coast of Oman and airlifted them to hospital where they were treated for shock and exposure.

The fishermen, Madian Ali 50, his son Mohammed 12, and a neighbour, Mohammed Salim 17, told police they had run out of engine fuel after losing their way in thick fog. They had no food or drinking water on board and survived on cups of seawater.

The Omani Navy and Coast Guard patrols had mounted an extensive search operation when relatives raised the alarm. The boat had drifted 80 miles down the coast when police spotted it, and found the men praying someone would find them.

### Sharhan receives two envoys

KUWAITI Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan yesterday received the ambassadors of Jordan and Venezuela in special telecommunication field.

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## Zanoun denounces latest American peace initiative

TUNIS, March 5, (Agencies): A prominent Palestinian official has denounced the peace initiative launched by the US Secretary of State George Shultz during his latest Mideast tour.

In an interview with Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) Salim Al Zanoun described the American plan as "similar to previous initiatives to contain the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories."

Shultz, who concluded a second Mideast tour yesterday within 10 days has presented new ideas for Israeli, Jordanian, Syrian and Egyptian leaders calling for limited self-rule for the Palestinians that is followed by negotiations on a final settlement.

Zanoun, who is the representative of Fatah movement in the Gulf region, also said that the Palestinian leadership was aware of the objective of the latest American initiative and had decided that Palestinians in the occupied territories boycott Shultz.

On the exchange of missile attacks between Iran and Iraq the Palestinian official regretted the latest escalation in the Gulf war and urged Iran to respond to international calls and to put an end to the war, which is currently in its 8th year.

**Mediation**

Zanoun recalled that the PLO had acted as a mediator between Iran and Iraq when the war started September 1980, but Iran then rejected that mediation.

He stressed that the PLO stands alongside Kuwait and all the Arab Gulf states in face of Iranian threats.

On the US decision to close the PLO observer mission in the United Nations, Zanoun said

this decision is part of an integrated scheme to keep the PLO away from the international scene.

He added that the PLO is working with Arab and friendly countries to get their support in face of that decision and pointed out that the PLO will resort to all international forums, including the international court of justice, to defend its legitimate right.

In answer to a question on the voyage to occupied Haifa, which was planned to take deportees back to their occupied homeland last month Zanoun said the Palestinian leadership has studied the positive and negative elements of that attempt in order to plan for another trip in the near future.

**Disobedience**

Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official has said that the popular uprising in occupied Palestine, which is closing the third month this week, is likely to enter in civil disobedience in support of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinians in the occupied territories are considering announcing civil disobedience but the leaders inside can determine when and how to take this move depending on the circumstances in full coordination and cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the PLO's political department chief Farouk Qaddoumi said.

But the PLO political architect assured a Kuwaiti newspaper in an interview conducted with him in Paris where he is currently visiting, that "the uprising will continue and extend into the future and may take additional forms and pictures."

"The situation will never be the same as it was before. The volcanic eruption is the con-

sequence of the boiling factors that interacted in the continued work for the Palestinian revolution," Qaddoumi said.

The missile war between Iran and Iraq is distracting world attention from the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, Palestinian officials said today.

"Our people revolted because of frustration at world neglect of their cause which was overshadowed mainly by the Iran-Iraq war," said Ahmed Kalash, information chief at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission in the United Arab Emirates today.

"It is unclear that after we paid dearly to maintain the world of our dilemma, a fresh Gulf flare-up would threaten that achievement."

### Serayaa returns

DIRECTOR of the Cultural Affairs in the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Abdul Aziz Al Serayaa returned here Friday night from Bahrain after participating in the GCC general cultural committee's second meeting there.

Serayaa told Kuna that the officials in Bahrain's Information and Culture Ministry paid a great deal of attention to the meeting which discussed the executive programmes of cultural joint work.

The meeting distributed the programmes on the participating states and studied the regulations of these programmes and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states' commitments toward them.

The situation will never be the same as it was before. The volcanic eruption is the con-

## KPTC taking strict measures to stop vandalism

By Lima Al Khalafawi

KUWAIT Public Transport Company (KPTC) is taking strict measures to stop vandalism. Abdul Wahab Al Haroon, the chairman and managing director of KPTC said thousands of dinars are spent by KPTC on window panes alone, broken by youngsters and other commuters.

Bus drivers are held responsible for acts of vandalism committed by passengers and have been instructed to be on the lookout for passengers involved in such acts. Al Haroon said drivers will have the cost of any damage to their buses deducted from their salaries. He added that "people who indulge in vandalism will be fined or sent to the police station."

**Harassing**  
Al Haroon appealed to passengers to carry the correct change in their pockets or to show their season ticket to avoid misunderstanding between themselves and the driver or conductors.

He said that some youngsters were harassing male and female passengers, but added that this behaviour had decreased because of the supervision of the conductors and drivers. Front seats should always be reserved for females, he said.

**Extended**

Drivers usually are very responsible, the chairman said, but added that any misconduct by drivers, should be reported, especially those who drive at excessive speed or violate traffic regulations.

Al Haroon explained that buses are supposed to be driven in the right lane but because of traffic congestion on Fahed Al Salem Street they were allowed to use the center lane as well.

KPTC currently has 1,400 buses providing passenger services throughout Kuwait. Al Haroon said, adding that they plan to provide more buses to the Khaitan and New Farwaniya areas during peak commuter

passengers, but added that this behaviour had decreased because of the supervision of the conductors and drivers. Front seats should always be reserved for females, he said.

KPTC is ready to respond to complaints from passengers, Al Haroon said, and would investigate accordingly. He asked that passengers give the bus number, the time and date of the incident when submitting a complaint.

**Extended**  
Drivers usually are very responsible, the chairman said, but added that any misconduct by drivers, should be reported, especially those who drive at excessive speed or violate traffic regulations.

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## Communications

KUWAITI Communications Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub is due to leave today to attend the GCC's executive committee for post, telegram and telephone meeting scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi March 7 and 8.

The committee's meeting is in preparation to the March 9 meeting of the GCC ministers of communications.

The situation will never be the same as it was before. The volcanic eruption is the con-

### Sabah's message

DOHA, March 5, (Kuna): Qatari Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saif Al Thani today received a message from Kuwaiti acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah concerning bilateral ties.

The Kuwaiti ambassador here delivered the message during his meeting with Sheikh Ahmed today, Qatari News Agency reported.

The situation will never be the same as it was before. The volcanic eruption is the con-

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## Lectures on Islamic values



A number of articles are displayed at the charity bazaar.

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE Women's Committee at the Islamic Heritage Revival Society is holding a series of lectures on Islamic values.

The first lecture was about the significance of the Islamic veil, which was presented by Sheikh Nazem Al Mosbah. The second lecture will be on the role of Muslim women in spreading Islam and the third will be about the character of Muslim women.

The head of the cultural committee of the society, Huda Al Jaseem, said the aim of the lectures was to increase Islamic awareness among women in Kuwait. Al Jaseem said the society seeks to highlight qualities of Islam and to encourage people to

adhere to Islamic principles. She said the society is holding a charity bazaar with a display of handicrafts made by members of the society. The bazaar also includes a display of Islamic books.

### Police corporal dies in road mishap

KUWAITI Ministry of Interior announced today that a police corporal died and another was seriously injured when their patrol car overturned on the Salmi Road. The ministry said that Razzak Nazal Al Dhafiri, the driver of the car was killed and his colleague, Ali Abbas Ahmad was seriously injured in the accident.

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السيد محمد علي



## WHAT'S ON

## THEATRE

## ACT

ACT presents "An Evening of Absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School. The evening consists of two absurdly comic one-act plays, *The Bald Soprano* by Eugene Ionesco and *The American Dream* by Edward Albee. A special discount will be given for all opening-night tickets. For reservations ring 5639204; 5620332; 5725071.

**Kuwait Little Theatre**  
KLT will perform the *Vicar of Wakefield*, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith. Gala opening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

**Rock 'n' Romance**  
June Stevenson and Phil Thomas of Kuwait Players present *Rock 'n' Romance*, a show with a romantic touch at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23 and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For details call 5624175, after 2pm, or 5745838.

## SOCIAL

## German-Speaking Cultural Association

The regular meeting of the association will be held today, 10 am, at the Kuwait Hilton's Old Fala Room. All German speaking women are welcome.

## Kuwait Natural History Group

The next meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday, March 8, at the Gulf English School Salwa. An illustrated talk on "Super Conductors in Kuwait" will be given by Mr. Qazi. For details phone Eric Shaw - 3718417.

## Luncheon Party

Friends of Great Ormond Street Hospital Lunch will be held on March 17, 1.30 pm, at Messiah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact 4831339; 5636675.

## Desert BBQ

Kuwait Players will hold a Desert BBQ on Friday, March 11. Organised games for children. Newcomers particularly welcome. Tel: 5330934; 5613465.

## Canadian Women's League

The next meeting will be held on March 6, 4 to 6 pm. Location of the meeting has been changed. Tel: 3718678 for further details.

## Photography Contest

Kapilku has extended the deadline to March 31 for submitting entries for the photography contest on "Portrait of Filipinos in Kuwait." The K.P.K.I.D. number must be mentioned on all entries. For details phone 4877793.

## Kuwait Irish Society

St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

## Daniella

Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingeborg - 3903464.

## AUB Alumni Dinner

The AUB (American University of Beirut) alumni in Kuwait will hold a dinner reception in honour of the AUB delegation visiting Kuwait. The delegation includes AUB president, deputy president and vice president. For reservations and further details phone 5619891; 5624502; 3980560.

## SPORTS

## Inter-School Knockout '88

Inter-school Knockout '88 will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Games featuring students and teachers will be held for three nights. For details contact the Holiday Inn hotel.

## German Sports - Stammtisch

The latest weekly German sports round-up shown on video every Tuesday at 7.30 pm at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel. Free entry. For details contact Bernhard Irmig - 4835344.

## Cricket Match

The BA Speedbird Trophy cricket match between teams representing Great Britain and Pakistan will take place at the KOC, Ahmadi. New Ground on March 15. Play commences at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

## HOTELS

## At the Sheraton

Dine at the Hunt Room with live music by the Trio Paradise. For lunch, the restaurant offers a la carte.

## At the Hilton

La Palma, all-day dining restaurant open from 6.30 am, features Oriental, Continental and international cuisine and an array of sweets and desserts. Full American buffet breakfast offered from 6.30 am to 11 am. A la carte also available.

## Going Places

## Ruffians spoil a nice evening

## Jagjit-Chitra win over ghazal lovers

By Fathima Ahmed

WHEN an Asian organiser announces a concert at "6 pm prompt" it normally means "7 pm prompt", or later if time permits. Friday's Sham-e-Ghazal (An evening of ghazals) was delayed a mere 55 minutes and began after an inevitable but unacceptable apology from the organisers.

Ten minutes after the concert began, waiters were still ushering in chairs for people lined-up around the walls. The concert was a sell-out.

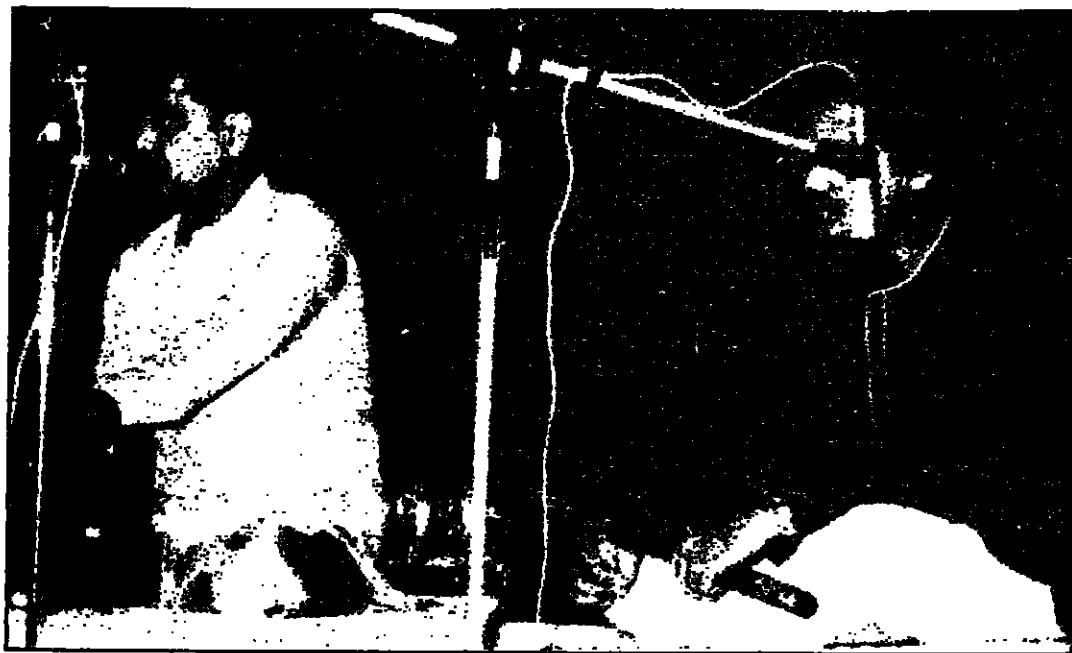
Jagjit and Chitra Singh are crowd pullers. Then, why did the organisers invite people they could not accommodate? Two ladies, invitees of an Indian diplomat, were unceremoniously removed from their seats - only to be "relocated" after an embarrassing wait.

Everything was forgiven and forgotten as the dulcet notes of music floated after Jagjit launched the concert with Bashir Mazhar's ghazal "Socha nahin achcha buraa." It couldn't be a more appropriate beginning to the concert.

Cool  
The audience was in "perfect disharmony" thanks to the "perfect taste" of tea. At the expense of insulting the artists on stage - and spoiling a perfect evening - a group of distasteful people disturbed the serious listeners with shameful catcalls and disparaging remarks.

The hotel security and the organisers deserve credit for throwing out the miscreants and restoring peace in the second half of the concert. Such jarring notes spoiled what could have been an evening of musical harmony.

Jagjit Singh - the performer - took all this in his stride, controlling the irate audience with a soft smile and immovables. A lesser performer would have lost his cool. And Jagjit's deep, rich voice was a balm for many a wracked nerve.



An ideal team: Jagjit Singh (left) and flautist Rono Mukherjee.

The noted ghazal singer presented a few numbers from his latest compact disc *Beyond Time*, recently recorded and released in London. Pakistani poetess Ishrat Afreen's ghazal "Fathar beech aina rakha kina mushkil hai..." and "Yeh bhi yehsaan kam hai dekhia naam apka ho raha har taraf."

The singing duo were relaxed even as they launched into frivolous - but rhythmic - numbers in Punjabi. This seemed to delight a section of the audience, who apparently did not appreciate the more serious, soulful music.

## Diction

Jagjit sensed the mood of the disruptive section of the audience and indulged in musical banter yodelling Punjabi geet. His next number - "Huzoor aapka ehtaram karta hoon - idhar se guza tha salam karta chalu" (Sir, I respect you. I was passing by and stopped for you...) was a below the belt blow, which went above the heads of the audience. It was a particularly sober number rendered uninhibitedly by the

successful crooner.

Jagjit's rendition is par excellence. His diction is near perfect. Jagjit's voice teases the listener as he playfully changes diction from soft to sharp - but never shrill - stressing words for just the right impact.

The singer has acquired a deep-throated voice, very reminiscent of the late singer Saigal. Touches of Saigal's diction gave an appealing lilt to Jagjit's rendition.

Jagjit was ably supported by his orchestra - Rono Mukherjee on flute (one could have listened to Rono's bansuri for the entire night). The flautist evoked a feeling of fresh pastures and calm waters flowing effortlessly. He proved to be a good partner for the enthusiastic performer, Jagjit. Other orchestra members were Sandip Sen (tabla) and Surendra Sharma (Santur).

That the sound system played havoc and screeched unceremoniously, much to the annoyance of the audience and the singer, is another matter.

Each time the singer wanted

the sound adjusted, which was barely audible to the people in the back rows, it went berserk with a high pitched screech, drowning the singer's voice.

Though the audience was far from satisfied with the selection of the ghazals (as Jagjit said later "It is difficult to please everyone"), Jagjit and Chitra managed to bring down the house with such numbers as "Balle balle", "Yeh daulat bhi laile", "Tujhko dariya dili ki kadam saqiya" a take off on that ageless ghazal "Rukh se parda hatade zara saqiya" and "Kurtu malmala". The best of the lot was undoubtedly the deeply emotional number that rounded off the evening, "Dard se mera daaman bharde, ya Allah", a number that cried out for understanding and peace, rendered with much conviction by Jagjit Singh.

## Sound

The evening would have lasted longer if some diplomats had not left the Grand Ballroom at the peak of the concert. This seemed to annoy the artist, who quipped: "Does this mean the concert has ended?" A good sport that Jagjit is, he calmed his petulant wife, and continued good-naturedly.

In an interview yesterday Jagjit said he was "unhappy with the sound system." Having performed in all major cities around the world, the singer found "sound technicians in Kuwait were inexperienced and the worst." This was a technical fault that could have been avoided by proper planning.

And diplomatically Jagjit parried queries about the misbehaviour of a section of the audience saying: "They were controllable. Such behaviour is to be expected in large gatherings."

## ACT's evening of absurdity

TICKETS are going well for ACT's production of "An Evening of Absurdity" which opens on Monday night at the Mousetrap Theatre. Tickets for performances on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are still available (for details What's On column). Two-one act plays - *The Bald Soprano* and *An American Dream* will be staged by the ACT, who are now experimenting with the 'theatre of the absurd'. The production team, including producer Nancy Parker, are confident of entertaining the audience. "We have all freaked out. I'm certain the audience will love it," said Nancy. Right: Barbara Gould, Mohammad Abueljebain, Debbie Turner and Scott Hose rehearsing for "An American Dream".



## CINEMA TODAY

**Al Andalus**  
Al Marat Wal Kanoon (Arabic)  
Starring: Shirin, Farouk Fishawi, Majeda

**Al Sahiya**  
Jumping Jack Flash  
Starring: Whoopi Goldberg

**Al Hamra**  
Rajul Fi Ayoun Imraa (Arabic)  
Starring: Ilham Shahin, Hatem Zulficar

**Drive-In**  
Al Rajul Yahub Marratain (Arabic)  
Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Shabira, Laila Alwi, Hala Sudqi, Waheed Saif

**Al Firdous**  
Mere Humdam Mere Dost (Hindi)  
Starring: Dharmendra, Sharmila Tagore

**Fahad Open-Air**  
Naya Zamana (Hindi)

**Al Fahadhel**  
Oridathu (Malayalam)  
Al Jahra  
Shahenshah (Hindi)  
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri

**Granada**  
Uttar Dakshin (Hindi)  
Salaikhat Country

**Al Jeeb**  
Idanazhiyil Oru Kalocha (Malayalam)  
Ahmadi Drive-In

**Carioga Tiger**

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Zuhr 11.59  
Asr 3.21 pm  
Maghreb 5.51  
Isha 7.08

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Jandol Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.  
Al Hakim Pharmacy  
Jaber Al Mubarak St., Sharq

**Hawalli and Nagra**  
Al Haditha Pharmacy  
Othman Complex, Bin Khaldoon St., Nagra

**Salmiya and Rumaythiya**  
Al Denah Pharmacy  
Amman St.

**Fahadhel and Ahmadi**  
Sadaf Pharmacy  
Makkah St., F'heel

**Farwaniya**  
Al Yasmin Pharmacy  
Jara Commercial Centre, Block 1, Main St.

**Jahra**  
Al Khalid Pharmacy  
Opp. Cooperative Society

## TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

## KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News Via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Ma'aeb: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 Ghadab Al Sahara: part six of Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Sahar Rami, Talhah Hamdi
- 5.30 Al Manahat: children's serial, featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer, Attiya, Rabe's Shihab...
- 6.00 Songs and Music
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Documentary
- 7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt: poetry session
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Surqa Al Simt: part 7: Arabic serial, featuring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Ghaith, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmad Badr.
- 10.50 An Evening of Poetry: features poets Abdul Rahman Al Duwaili and Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
- 11.50 News Summary
- 11.55 World News Via Satellite



Dorothy Parke, Booth Savage and Paul Burke in Hot Shots, on KTV2 tonight.

12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

## KTV 2

- 3.00 Holy Quran
- 3.10 Sports Studio: Italian Soccer, highlights of Big League Soccer, American Basketball.
- 6.10 The Lone Ranger: the adventures of the ranger continue in another exciting episode.

6.30 Butterfly Island: in tonight's episode, the islanders are in for a shock when a multi-millionaire arrives and declares his intention to buy the island.

7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local talk show on Islam.

7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a wacky look at sporting events.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Hot Shots: "Roll Over Agatha Christie". A whodunit game at a palace turns into a real mystery.

9.30 Foley Square: "Someone To Watch Over Me." A body guard is appointed after Alex receives threats from unidentified people.

10.00 Foul-Ups, Bleeps, Blunders.

10.30 Best-Seller: Space: Part 4.

\* Report from Saudi Arabia

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

## RADIO PROGRAMMES

## English

- Morning
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0830 News
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Bands With A Beat
- 0930 Songs and Music
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1030 Pick of the Pop
- 1100 Closedown
- 1330 News on FM Service

- Evening
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 The Young Sound
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 The World of Sports
- 2215 In The French Mood
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Pop Session Special
- 2400 Closedown

## FM Services

- 0800 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1100 Country's Western
- 1200 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 French Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Arabic Songs and Music
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Music
- 0200 Closedown

## Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behtereen Qaul
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Geet-Kabani
- 2100 Closedown

## BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)
- 0100 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance cont.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families
- 0200 World News
- 09 The Sunday Papers
- 15 Camery Row
- 30 Album Time
- 0200 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent
- 30 Yes Mister
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Capriccio (ex 27th The Seven Ages of Man
- 45 Reflections
- 30 Financial Review
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Chain Reaction (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)

- 45 Letter from America
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Jazz for the Asking
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 From Our Own Correspondent
- 45 Book Choice
- 50 Waveguide
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 The Pleasure's Yours
- 0900 World News
- 09 News About Britain
- 15 Science in Action
- 45 Education Today (ex 6th A Hobbs - or a Way of Life)
- 1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
- 15 Classical Record Review
- 30 Religious Service
- 1100 World News
- 09 News About Britain
- 15 From Our Own Correspondent (ex 27th The Wondrous Cross)
- 30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 13th Play of the Week: Remembrance)
- 1200 News Summary (ex 13th) followed by Play of the Week: 6th The Browning Version; 13th Remembrance cont.; 20th From the Lion Rock; 27th Happy Families
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Sports Roundup
- 45 The Sandi Jones Request Show including at 1400 News Summary
- 1400 Yes Minister
- 1500 Radio Newsworld
- 15 6th and 13th International Racism; 20th and 27th Concert Hall
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Why Should This Happen to Me? (ex 6th The Desert Dairy)
- 45 Letter from America

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## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

AN invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come — Victor Hugo, French writer (1802-1885).

## Mitterrand's silence upsets rightists

By Claire Rosenberg

PARIS, (Reuters): Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's refusal to say whether he will run in France's presidential election is infuriating right-wing candidates and causing a stir over how the country will be governed after the vote.

Mitterrand, clear favourite in opinion polls, must officially declare his candidacy by April 5. The two-round contest is scheduled for April 24 and May 8.

The president said he would clarify his position after the summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which ended on Thursday in Brussels.

He and conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac put up possibly their last united stand abroad at the meeting since being forced to share power in March 1986 — an experiment the French call "cohabitation".

Rumours abound on when Mitterrand will finally announce his intentions and what he will say.

His two main challengers, Chirac and former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, have found it tricky to campaign against a ghost candidate.

Analysts say Chirac is annoyed by Mitterrand's statements that he is keeping silent to hold the state above the campaign hurly-burly for as long as possible.

## Popularity

Mitterrand, 71, has enjoyed growing popularity since the defeat of his Socialist Party in 1986 parliamentary elections forced him to share power with Chirac and a centre-right majority in the National Assembly. He has since adopted the mantle of a head of state above political allegiances.

Conservative leaders have been dropping their cautious approach to Mitterrand's undeclared presidential bid.

Chirac this week told a political rally that Mitterrand was "a shadow, and it is difficult to do battle with a shadow."

## Nationalism divides Soviet Baltic republics

By Mark J. Porubcansky

TALLINN, USSR, (AP): Cultural differences and national pride distinguish Russian from Estonian, and divide parent from child in Estonia, home of a small ethnic group caught between stronger neighbours for centuries.

Last August, in an event dissidents say showed the authorities they had lost control, thousands of people marked the anniversary of a secret agreement between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union that led to the 1940 Soviet takeover of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Soviet authorities now are encouraging the republics' growing non-Baltic populations to learn the native language and some cases are seeking to restrict immigration from other parts of the Soviet Union.

People of the Baltic nations, very different ethnically from the Soviet Union's dominant Slavic population, always have maintained a strong cultural and ethnic identity.

One of the Estonian dissidents is 21-year-old Tina Hallik, daughter of faithful Communist Party members.

"People think if I'm free, if I'm not in prison or slave labour camp, then maybe I can do a little something. But nothing is getting done. Nothing changes," said Ms. Hallik.

## Isolate

"If they try to isolate every one (of the group) the people will come out because they will have heard something is happening," she said.

Recently, Ms. Hallik's 55-year-old mother, Klara, was among writers, scholars and officials from the Baltic republics taking part in a panel discussion of national problems organised for foreign reporters by the government news agency Novosti.

Klara Hallik discounted the importance of nationalism as a problem in Estonia. She and other panel members drew a distinction between nationalism and cultural differences.

Her daughter said she respects her mother's views but that they sharply disagree. Superiors at work and the KGB have put

Government spokesman and Budget Minister Alain Juppe accused Mitterrand of "double-talk", of frequently changing his political colours and ducking political debate by declaring himself "Father of the Nation".

Much right-wing concern focuses on how parliament will function with the president and prime minister after the second run-off round between the top two candidates emerging from the first ballot.

## Avoid

Chirac says that if he wins he will avoid calling general elections and leave in place the conservative parliament which ousted the socialists two years ago. But at a rally this week he hinted that if Mitterrand won reelection "cohabitation" between a left-wing president and conservative-dominated parliament could continue.

He said the country's leaders would have "to take national interest into account" and avoid exposing France to political havoc and "adventure".

The statement caused outrage both within Chirac's RPR Party and its junior partner in government, the centre-right UDF. The UDF supports Barre, who has consistently opposed cohabitation.

Mitterrand's 1981 election was followed by a parliamentary election which swept to power a coalition socialist and communist government.

But analysts say that large cuts in communist support in recent years and deep divisions between the two left-wing parties meant Mitterrand could not be certain of securing a clear parliamentary majority in a new election.

The daily Le Monde said Chirac's room for manoeuvre was limited by his participation in cohabitation for the last two years.

"The problem facing Chirac and his friends is that they cannot slam cohabitation too hard after accepting it for two years, nor can they back the possibility too strongly as this would help Mitterrand's return," it said.

pressure on her parents because of their daughter's views, Ms. Hallik said.

Little open conflict is evident between ethnic groups in Estonia. Writer Ulo Tuulik, a member of the officially sponsored panel, said Estonians and other ethnic groups "could be compared to the Mississippi and Volga Rivers. We just live our own lives and don't have great conflicts."

Estonians number just more than one million and make up 61 per cent of their small republic, but that figure has dropped from almost 75 per cent in 1959. Russians now make up 28 per cent of the population.

According to 1987 official statistics, only 25 per cent of the Estonians spoke fluent Russian, the dominant language of the Soviet Union. One out of 10 non-Estonians could speak fluent Estonian.

## Dropping

In Latvia in 1979 there were about 1.3 million Latvians and 821,000 Russians, but Lithuanians made up 80 per cent of the population of their republic.

Officials say the number of Estonians in the republic is dropping because Estonians have one of the lowest birth rates in the Soviet Union, and that many of the non-Estonians who move there are young people attracted by good jobs in the republic's industries.

To limit the migration, officials are requiring state-run industries that seek workers outside the republic to put up about \$25,000 for each worker's housing. A similar programme is in effect in Latvia.

Most of the protests in the Baltic republics have been peaceful, but the dissidents report more surveillance and pressure.

Dissident sources say activists in Lithuania and Estonia have been arrested for refusing temporary military service. They charge that the temporary call-up in both cases was an attempt by authorities to discourage protests.

The officials Lithuanian press has warned that activists face prosecution if they disrupt public order, and Soviet President Andrei A. Gromyko addressed the issue in a visit to Vilnius, Lithuania, a week ago.

## Standoff between Washington and Noriega

## Panama presents US with a foreign policy dilemma

NEW YORK, (Reuters): How can a superpower deal with a hostile government in a tiny but strategic nation whose military leader is supported by some of its worst enemies?

The standoff between Washington and Panama's de facto ruler, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, confronts the Reagan administration with one of its most difficult foreign policy dilemmas.

Having ruled out military intervention, Washington's options appear limited to the use of economic warfare to protest against Noriega's rule.

## Smuggling

But veteran foreign analysts and Panama watchers say even economic sanctions, such as a proposed trade embargo to press Noriega to step down, could backfire.

Barring a military coup, most expect Noriega to cling to power indefinitely.

For the general, a cunning former intelligence chief, has had

only limited success in depicting himself as a victim of US aggression and meddling in Panama's internal affairs.

Cuba, Nicaragua and Libya are the only countries to have sided with Noriega since Florida grand juries indicted him in February on charges of drug smuggling and racketeering.

But former US ambassador to Panama Ambler Moss and other analysts say a trade embargo could lead other countries, and nationalistic Panamanians, to cry foul over the heavy-handed tactics of the "colossus of the north."

"There have been some very irresponsible statements on the part of some legislators," Moss said of calls in the US Congress for an embargo and other sanctions against Panama.

"This is precisely what Noriega needs," he said, referring to the general's efforts to stir up anti-American sentiment. "Noriega wants a David and Goliath situation."

Moss also said that "a trade embargo could be considered a violation of the Panama Canal treaties," under which the United States is required to acquire goods and services from Panama.

Of Washington's backing for Eric Arturo Delvalle, the Panamanian president ousted by the military-dominated National Assembly last week, Moss said it put the Reagan administration "in the difficult position of recognising a government that doesn't really exist."

"You can't go on supporting the deposed government forever, and in Latin America nobody ever does," Moss said.

He predicted that US efforts to enforce Delvalle's call for an international ban on business transactions with Panama would "begin to wear thin" within a few days.

In the meantime, he said, threats to withhold payments to the Panamanian government from the US-operated Panama

Canal could play directly into Noriega's hands by giving him "the issue to shore up his own popularity."

Moss, who served as ambassador to Panama from 1978-1982, and William Jordan, ambassador from 1974-1978, agreed the only quick-fix solution would be a move within Panama's military to oust Noriega.

"It's the only outcome which could unseat Noriega," Moss said of a barracks revolt.

## Downfall

Jordan said: "I believe that finally the solution is going to come from the people in the Panamanian (defence) forces. I think that's a fairly logical solution."

As an incentive for moves against Noriega, Moss suggested Washington should offer aid for future military civic action projects, coupled with an economic recovery package and debt relief.

Apart from that, he and other analysts said there was little the United States could do to speed

Noriega's downfall and get Panama moving back toward democracy after more than 18 years of open or behind-the-scenes military rule.

"This is an internal Panamanian problem that has to be solved there," Moss said.

Asked about a trade embargo, which Senate Republican leader Robert Dole has called for within 30 days, a State Department official who requested anonymity said such a move could be counterproductive.

"A sledgehammer approach can be almost as harmful as not doing anything at all," the official said.

## Bankrupt

Eva Loser of the Centre for Strategic International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, also advised against further US sanctions on Panama.

"It's playing with fire to further destabilise a chaotic situation," he said.

All agreed that, even without further US measures, Panama's

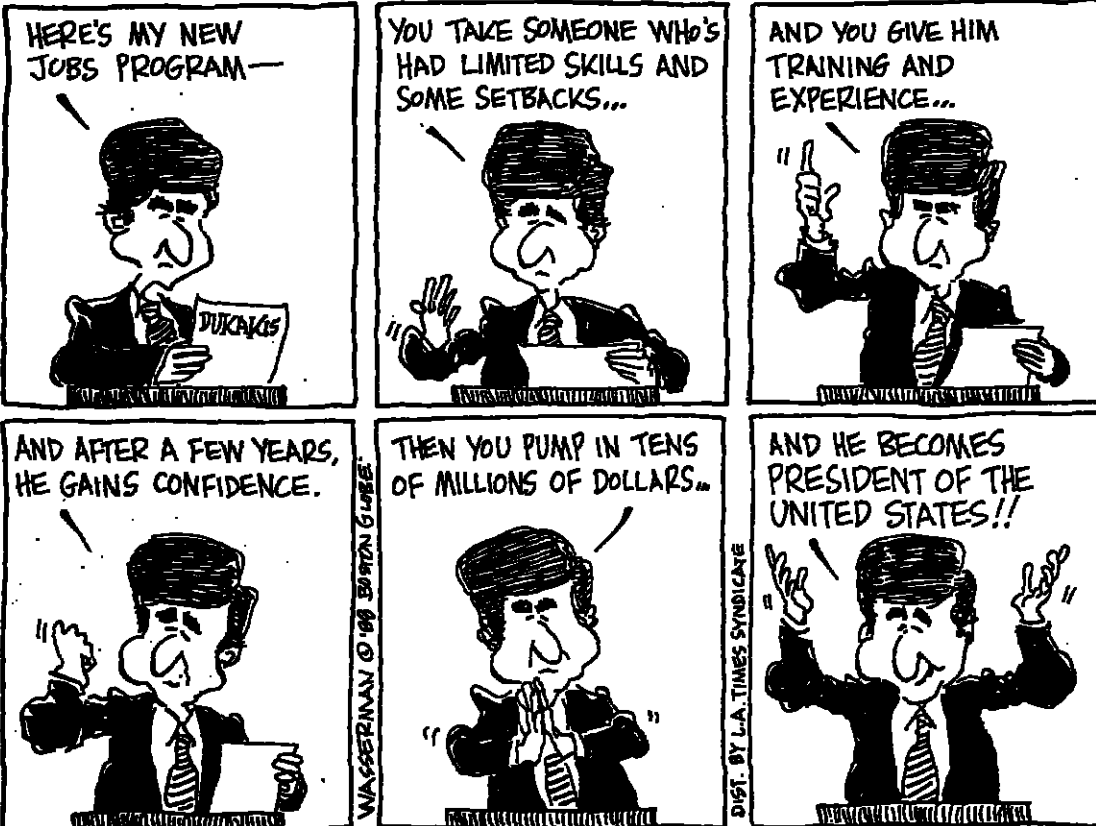
state of near-bankruptcy would put tremendous pressure on Noriega in the weeks ahead, but with a still weak and divided domestic opposition, the general may be able to weather the storm round him.

"Noriega's days are numbered, but don't ask me what the numbers are," Loser said.

Ruben Blades, Panama's superstar singer, charged in a recent Renter interview that the US grand jury indictments on Noriega were "politically motivated" and stemmed from Panama's policy of "non-intervention in Nicaragua."

The Reagan administration supports the Contra rebels battling Nicaragua's leftist government.

"I'm not defending the military dictatorship in Panama," Blades said. But echoing many Latin American leftists, he said Washington turned against Noriega only because he was "impossible to control to favour US interests."



Sri Lanka's elusive rebels

## Tigers remain defiant

By Jonathan S. Landay

VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, (UPI): The youth hunched on a log by a side of the rutter track, his automatic rifle resting on his knees as he furiously brushed his teeth.

He threw an indifferent glance at the Indian military helicopters dropping into view high in the azure sky, then went back to what he was doing.

Nearby, seven other Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas were awaking beneath a straw-roofed shelter. Some walked into the open to stretch, ignoring the thumping helicopter rotors.

The helicopter disappeared towards Vavuniya, a market town barely four miles (6 km) south and the centre of the largest concentration of Indian troops deployed in the island's Tamil-dominated north and east to disarm the Tigers and end their war for a separate nation under an Indo-Sri Lankan peace plan signed last July 29.

## Attacks

For the fighters posted to the checkpoint of an elaborate security network protecting the estimated 250 Tigers sheltering in villages around Vavuniya in northern province, the Indian buildup seems to have caused little concern. Contrary to that many experts believe they remain defiant in the open.

"If the Indians come here, we just move into the jungle for a few hours," said a 26-year-old youth who identified himself only as Syatnam. "We are guerrillas."

"Earlier, we made direct attacks," said the Tiger's Vavuniya district political officer, who

uses the nom de guerre of Dinesh. "Now... we attack when it is possible."

Driven from their bastion in the northernmost Jaffna peninsula by an offensive last October and November that cost hundreds of Indian and civilian lives, the Tigers dispersed south.

They lost only an estimated 100 of their 2,500 fighters and are harassing Indian forces with landmine attacks and ambushes, paralysing implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord and blackening the credibility of President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Hoping to contain the Tigers by saturating Tamil areas in northern and eastern provinces with soldiers, India is shipping in thousands of new troops.

Convoys roll daily into camps pitched along major roads around Vavuniya, throwing up clouds of dust. More than 12,000 Indian soldiers are now deployed in the area and the number is increasing.

The buildup is aimed at eliminating the rebels' threat to elections planned by April for the administration of a new Tamil province to be created by merging northern and eastern provinces.

## Autonomy

Under the Indo-Sri Lankan peace plan, the new province will have substantial autonomy from Colombo to satisfy Tamil demands for an independent nation they say their mostly Hindu ethnic minority needs to escape years of discrimination by majority Buddhist Sinhalese.

The plan has been endorsed by four other Tamil rebel groups, but rejected as insufficient by the Tigers. Dinesh said they will call

a boycott of the proposed elections, which many observers and officials doubt will be held because the threat of Tiger retribution will dissuade candidates from running.

So far, Indian sweeps for the rebels have been confined mostly to the eastern province capital of Batticaloa. Few of the estimated 80 to 120 Tigers there were reported to have been found.

In Vavuniya district, the Indians control only the town and the main roads, according to Sri Lankan military experts, who question whether they will ever succeed in "sanitising" the area of rebels even with their superior numbers.

## Hidden

Dinesh was certain the Indians will fail. While most Tigers are still deployed in areas the Indians have yet to enter, he said, some have hidden their weapons and are lying low, ready to strike and return to hiding.

"The Tigers are among the people," he said in an interview held in a school while classes were underway. "The Indian Army cannot identify who are Tigers and who are civilians."

His claim was confirmed by many Vavuniya residents and Sri Lankan Army officers. They said Indian forces are using other Tamil groups to finger Tiger fighters, although few have been caught.

They also confirmed Dinesh's claim that public support for the Tigers remains substantial, evidenced by their ability to move freely in the villages without fear of betrayal.

"The Tigers have taken on the mighty Indian Army," said a senior Sri Lankan Army officer, "and in the eyes of the ordinary man, this is very admirable."

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): President Reagan emerged from this week's Nato summit with a vote of confidence from America's allies for his pursuit of arms accords with the Soviet Union.

"We strongly support the efforts of the United States," leaders of the 16 member countries of the Western alliance said in a communique at their Brussels summit.

"These fully accord with our consistent policy to seek, through high-level dialogue, early and substantial progress with the Soviet Union on a full range of issues..." the Nato allies said.

## Alternative

At the same time, Reagan and his summit partners moved to keep a Soviet campaign for nuclear disarmament from swaying European public opinion and giving Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev a political advantage.

Reagan and Gorbachev are set for a fourth round of negotiations at a Moscow summit expected to take place in May.

"By maintaining credible deterrence, the alliance has secured peace in Europe for nearly 40 years. Conventional forces alone cannot assure this," the Nato declaration said.

## Kissinger was a master manipulator

## Shultz favours secrecy

By Jim Anderson

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (UPI): Henry Kissinger and George Shultz are both men who have held the office of Secretary of State and who have conducted Middle East shuttle diplomacy. That's where the similarity ends.

Kissinger was a master manipulator who understood how the dozen or so reporters in the back of his airplane could be used as a sounding board or a bulletin board who could send unofficial but authoritative messages to the leaders he was trying to influence.

A dozen news stories from reporters on the Kissinger plane beginning "a senior US official warned today..." was a device that got the attention of his negotiating partners.

If those partners complained about the public pressure, Kissinger could always shrug and mumble something about the propensity of journalists to fabricate. But the message got through.

Shultz takes the exact opposite view. He considers secrecy to be equivalent to seriousness in diplomacy.

As he put it, aboard his airplane, "I think the best thing I can do, as far as maximising the

prospects of getting anywhere, is not to talk very much about it."

And so he clammed up, as the frustrated reporters aboard his plane peppered him with questions that were all variations on the same theme: What are you trying to put together on this mission?

This is a lengthy explanation for the paradox that the reporters who are closest to Shultz is up to.

The law in Shultz — those who travel with him — are further away in terms of knowing what Shultz is up to.

The flaw in Shultz's method of operating is that there is no shortage of leaks from other people — the Jordanians, the Egyptians, the and both sides in the divided Israeli government.

## Leaks

Some of these leaks and plants are flat wrong. If he had met all the PLO leaders that the Israeli rumours said he was going to see, he would not have time for anything else, including sleeping.

Nevertheless, the general shape of Shultz's plan for breaking the stalemate in the Middle East is beginning to emerge, little by little.

He is thinking of an international conference, under the sponsorship of the United States and the Soviet Union, that would kick off direct talks between

Israel and the Arabs. The Palestinians would take part as members of a joint delegation with Jordan.

Working under a deadline of about six months, the two sides would put together an interim arrangement for the occupied territories, a system of limited self-rule that would run for three years and would be followed by the Palestinians choosing their own leaders and a more permanent form of autonomy.

## Negotiations

He has tipped his hand slightly on his theory of negotiations. Chatting with reporters on his plane, he said he deals "with the tip of the iceberg" in his talks with the Israelis and the Arab leadership. The real negotiations, he believes, go on within those governments after the leaders hear from Shultz.

Then those political leaders have to go back to their "constituencies" — their electorates, their parliament, their military and their advisers — and negotiate with them on how to modify their positions in order to keep the Shultz mission alive.

It is essentially the same technique that Shultz used in his earlier profession as a mediator in labour-management talks. There, too, he had an unbending insistence on absolute secrecy.

zealous about giving authorities the names of wounded brought to the hospital.

One said simply: "You can smell it. He is a collaborator."

Frantic to convince reporters otherwise, Zeina said that Israeli soldiers once shot into his house. He took out medical reports on his wife's back, which was injured when she dived to cover her children, he said.

His daughter's ear was grazed by a bullet in the incident, he said. His accusers agreed that Zeina did not have undue wealth and lived in a very modest apartment.

"I am suffering under the occupation. Nobody told you that Israelis shoot at my house," he said. "I am a man of the Palestinian people. I am a nationalist."

Jobs

Previous jobs with Israeli television and as a clerk in the US consulate were also held against him.

Many hospital employees said they believed Zeina informed on demonstrators and was over-

Joseph S. S. D.



# Can exercise really shorten your life span?

By Jenny Hope

THERE's some heartening news for people who hate exercise. It may not be very good for you. In fact, according to a leading American researcher, exercise might actually shorten your life.

This is, of course, very good news indeed to the devotees of armchair sport and all those of a lazy disposition who have been zealously broadcasting recent report of the side-effects of excessive exercises.

It is not, however, such good news to doctors who have spent their lives lecturing us on the benefits of modest exercise.

For in one fell swoop, this dramatic finding could change our attitude towards 'healthy' living forever.

It was while working on a complex and highly sophisticated series of experiments into people's life spans, at the University of Texas, that Dr Roger McCarter happened across a phenomenon he is now calling the Rate of Living Theory.

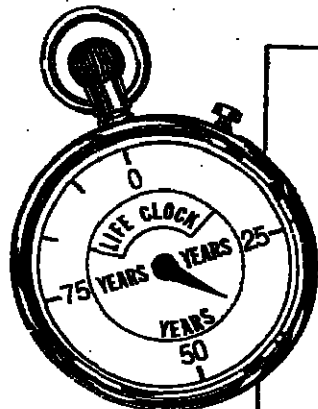
Basically, his highly provocative initial results indicate that eating whatever you want and exercising minimally increases longevity.

It's a theory that suggests we are all genetically allocated the ability to burn up a finite predetermined number of calories during our life; in other words, that our metabolic rates are somehow set to eat up only so much energy and then literally burn out.

Dr McCarter now believes the amount of exercise undertaken during a lifetime could speed up — or delay — the process.

"If you use those calories quickly by having a high metabolic rate, such as one who while exercising, then it could shorten your life span," he said.

The 'rate of living' theory has intrigued scientists for decades.



Ageing occurs at a rate linked to our personal body clocks but how much time we are each given — and what mechanism controls the span — remains a mystery.

Obviously external factors such as environment, stress, nutrition and exercise have an effect and experts are now beginning to analyse their impact on our metabolic rate.

The research being conducted in highly sophisticated laboratories at the Health Science Centre at the University of Texas should make an important contribution to establishing the role of metabolic rate on longevity.

The experiment is aimed at examining the lifetime behaviour of rats in a carefully controlled environment. Some are allowed to eat at will without exercising; others which eat only 60 per cent of the other groups intake are encouraged to exercise.

The preliminary results, quite astonishing, show that those eating and not exercising have an increased lifespan.

So far the scientific community in Britain is unconvinced. Dr Eric Newsholme, who lectures in biochemistry at Oxford University and specialises in the metabolic and biochemical effects of exercise, said: "This is not a hypothesis — it's a theory."

It is a theory that suggests we are all genetically allocated the ability to burn up a finite predetermined number of calories during our life; in other words, that our metabolic rates are somehow set to eat up only so much energy and then literally burn out.



ceive of a mechanism within the human body which could count up the calories consumed within a lifetime.

Similarly, Dr Ronald Maughan, of Aberdeen University's Department of Environmental and Occupational Medicine, is sceptical. Dr Maughan, who concentrates on the physical and biological responses to exercise, said: "There is no evidence to show any particular part of the body does anything but benefit from exercise."

Both men admit they must declare an interest. Dr Maughan is taking part in an experiment which involves him running 90 miles a week and says he has enjoyed running as exercise for 20 years while Dr Newsholme, 52, runs six days a week and has completed 32 marathons.

They stand four square in the pro-exercise camp, arguing that accumulated scientific evidence over the last 20 years has demonstrated its beneficial effects on health, particularly

in the prevention of cardiovascular disease. Heart disease, the biggest killer on both sides of the Atlantic, claims 180,000 lives a year in Britain.

But at the same time there is a growing consensus that excessive exercise is detrimental to both short-term and, possibly, long-term health. The intense training schedules of Olympic and professional athletes are putting the human body under unparalleled stress.

A meeting recently of the American Association for the Advancement of Science heard how male marathon or Olympic runners were being made sterile by the sport and women college athletes were suffering infertility. The effects were reversible but only by training less hard.

Over-jogging has been associated with hyperthermia, which is prolonged raised body temperature, causing collapse and even convulsions and death.

A phenomenon called sports anaemia has been identified in women who train intensively.

Symptoms include weakness, fatigue, iron deficiency and stunted growth in girls. And there are many more short-term problems.

Even so, it appears the wicked still cannot be allowed to rest. An Italian proverb claims: "Bed is a medicine." Yet prolonged "rest" causes problems. Calcium is lost, muscles waste and heart function declines.

According to one American report, three weeks of prone inactivity results in physical decline equal to 30 years of ageing.

The best answer the experts can supply to the exercise dilemma is a compromise.

Although experts like Dr Newsholme, who is investigating the effects of exercise on mood, advocate exercise as having an important part to play in people's health and sense of well-being, they are far from united on the optimum level. At least 30 minutes of exercise three times a week is an oft-quoted rule of thumb.

# Running takes toll on fertility

MARATHONS can make men sterile, scientists reported recently. The harder they run, the thinner they become and the lower their sperm count.

The brain responds to the stress by damping down the reproductive system, cutting supplies of the male sex hormone testosterone, the American Association for the Advancement of Science was told.

But the good news is that the effect is reversible: when the runners slow down and put on weight, their fertility returns.

"Infertility has been recorded in men who are marathon or Olympic runners," Professor Rose Frisch of Harvard Medical School told the association's annual conference.

The effects on women are similar. Intensive exercise and extreme weight loss renders female college athletes infertile, said Professor Frisch.

However, their periods return after six months' rest and they suffer no long-term

problems. They go on to have the average number of babies.

Exercise in childhood and at college protects women against cancer, Professor Frisch added. Women who had not been athletes at college have 2.5 times the rate of cancers of the reproductive system as those who had, and twice the rate of breast cancer, she has found.

In both men and women who taken intensive exercise and are excessively lean the hypothalamus, the gland at the base of the brain, alters its signal to the pituitary gland, which puts out the sex hormones necessary for egg maturation in women and sperm production in men.

Pulses from the hypothalamus become irregular. In women, this causes a complete shutdown of the reproductive system. The effect on men is more gradual and less severe: only the leanest, longest, and fastest runners become sterile.

Professor David Cumming of Alberta University tested the effects on men by persuading 20 sedentary Canadians in their twenties to run 25 miles a week. "If you drop body fat and

weight sufficiently, and increase exercise sufficiently, you do have some obvious reproductive effects."

"Runners who have a low body weight and high mileage have a reduction in the number of sperm and appear to have fertility problems."

The reason women lose their fertility more easily probably dates back to pre-historic times, according to Professor Frisch. If a mother had not stored enough body fat to sustain her baby during pregnancy and feed it afterwards, the baby would die.

A woman's body is about 20 per cent fat by the time she stops growing, and she needs it to have babies. Pregnancy uses up 50,000 calories a day, and lactation 1,000.

"If a 5ft 5in woman falls below 108lbs, she will not ovulate. If she wants to get fertile, she'll have to gain weight," said Professor Frisch.

"If you want to get pregnant, you have to stop exercising for about six months until your weight and relative fatness returns to the right range."

By E. Victoria Nagel

PARIS: A surprising new drink is competing with wine to become the Frenchman's favourite drink: mineral water.

The French, of course, have always consumed pure water. But in the last 20 years a fitness mania has swept the country, and consumption has soared. France today boasts more than 1,200 mineral springs producing some 100 brands.

"Fitness buffs are natural clients for drinking mineral water," says Philippe Gangloff, owner of the Parisian health spa, Club Nicolo. "Today, people work out more and tend to quench their thirst with a bottle of water, not beer."

Water has become big business in this country. Last year's sales figures topped 3 billion litres. Some 551 million litres were exported. This makes France No. 1 worldwide in mineral water production, consumption, export, and bottled-water technology.

"The French," says Fran-

# Fitness buffs cause mineral water boom

coise Lambroschini of the Chambre Syndicale des Baux Minerales. "select their mineral waters with the same care as they do their cheeses."

French attention to water dates back to the Romans, whose armies, during their rule of Gaul 2,000 years ago, discovered the springs. Vestiges of Roman spas can still be found at Badoit, Vittel, and Perrier.

Interest in modern times, interest in mineral spas found favor with royal courts during the 17th century. Spa-going peaked in the late 1800s and became especially popular among French colonists returning from stays in poorer, less sanitary parts of the world.

Urbanization has helped to develop a greater demand for bottled water in France in the 20th century. Many Parisians,

for instance, refuse to drink from the tap. They abhor chlorine which is obligatory in treating city water.

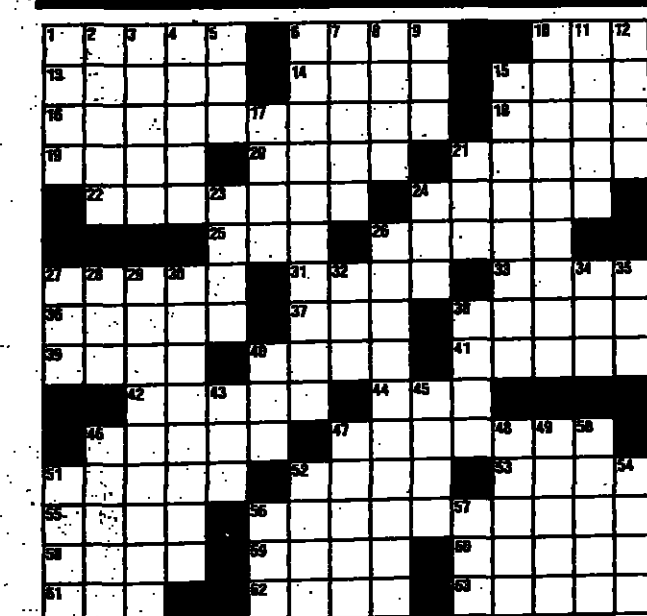
An additional plus for the bottled-water industry was the replacing of glass with plastic containers. Consumers appear to prefer the lighter, disposable packaging and are buying more units as a result.

Not until 1968, however, did water companies begin making huge financial investments in their water campaigns. Three parent groups, Perrier and its major competitors, Evian and Vittel (which combined, reap a total of \$635 million a year), now control 95 percent of the market.

Perrier, of course, has triumphed in the United States market with its bulbous green bottles.

The Christian Science Monitor.

## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Degrade
  - Get one's ankles wet
  - NE capital
  - Cleaning agent
  - Chilled champagne
  - Kind of opera
  - Crucial point, with "The"
  - Near Group Island
  - Clinton's canal
  - Calculus
  - "Come in"
  - Calm
  - Prairie schooner
  - Part of MPH
  - Antitoxin
  - Cinders
  - Require
  - Words of comprehension
  - Backbone
  - First lady
  - Working
  - Pureed spread
  - Glacial ridge
  - Mobile home?
  - Light browns
  - Helm dir.
  - Rascal
  - Petrels' cousins
  - Indonesian fabric
  - Costa
  - Bristle
  - Poker pot
  - Like some sale prices
  - Durocher and narnesakes
  - Tennis VIP
  - Suit fabric
  - EMK, for one
  - Nobleman
  - Places named for ancient Ilum
- DOWN**
- Cleric
  - Oafs
  - One of the
  - Shaws
  - Cloyed
  - Outer: Prefix
  - Untamed environment
  - Corrosives
  - Family rooms
  - Dutch commune
  - Cheers!
  - Like a cereal grass
  - Branch
  - Optimistic
  - Partner
  - Something to lend
  - Part of a church
  - Give one's hand to
  - Puckered material
  - African cobra
  - Baden Baden
  - Reach the depths
  - All-out efforts
  - Stowe's Little
  - See 44 Across
  - Shoe width
  - Entry
  - Whole
  - Diving bird
  - Piece of pine
  - Punjab princess
  - Microfilm sheet
  - Late bloomer
  - Rocket starter
  - Cheap smoke
  - eagle
  - American Beauty
  - Iowa college
  - town
  - Talk, mod style
  - Jarlsberg, for example

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
TWO WAYS TO SKIN A CAT

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 8  
♥ A K 10 2  
♦ A 9 2  
♣ A Q 10 2

**WEST**  
♠ 10 7 6 4  
♥ Q 7 5 4  
♦ 8 7  
♣ 6 4 3

**EAST**  
♠ K J 9 5 3  
♥ J 9 3  
♦ 4  
♣ K J 9 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 2  
♥ 8 6  
♦ K Q J 10 6 5 3  
♣ 8 5

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass 1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♠  
Pass 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥  
Pass 5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦  
Pass Pass Pass

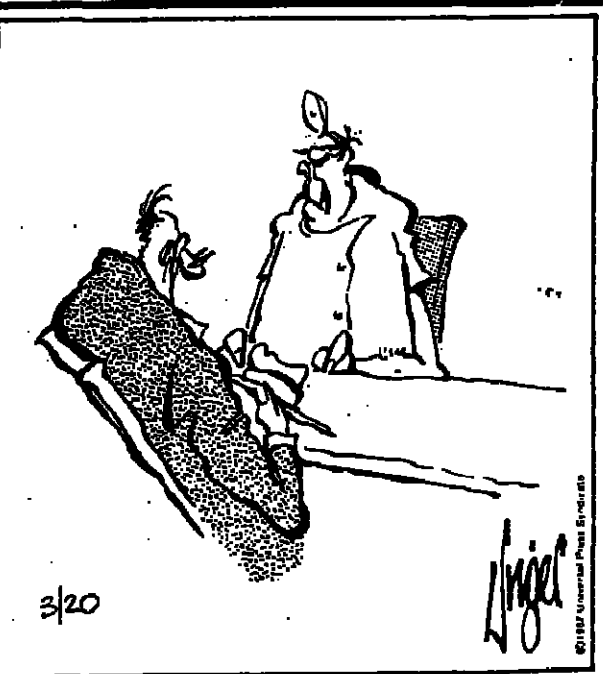
Opening lead: Four of ♠  
An innocent overcall by East paved the way for declarer to make a contract that would probably have been defeated otherwise. A lead-directing double at the other table proved as revealing.

North's powerful auction allowed South to judge that his spade control justified bidding slam. He was a little surprised to find that North did not have a singleton spade, but he showed good technique in landing his slam.

Had there been no interference

bidding and assuming a normal red-suit lead, declarer would probably have relied upon two club finesses for his slam, with disastrous results. But since both black-suit kings were marked off-side by the overcall, declarer found a far more appealing line of play. He followed low from dummy and won with the ace. After drawing a trump in hand, declarer cashed the ace-king of hearts and ruffed a heart. He got back to the table with a trump and ruffed the last heart. Now he exited with a spade to the queen. In with the king, East had a choice of losing options—he could either lead a spade and concede a ruff-suff, allowing declarer to get rid of his club loser, or lead into dummy's club tenace.

At the other table East doubled six diamonds for a club lead, but it helped not a whit. Declarer won the club lead with the ace, drew trumps, cashed the high hearts and ran all his trumps. That produced a three-card ending where declarer held A-2 of spades and a club, and dummy had Q-9 of spades and the queen of clubs. Since East had to keep the guarded king of spades, he was forced down to the bare king of clubs. Declarer tucked him in with the club, forcing a spade lead away from the king into the combined tenace. Declarer lost only a club trick.



"Two years is a long time to have jet lag."

## THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



## YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
The prospects are good but you must not allow your emotions to get out of hand. Make sure you are not late for a lunch date. You will be able to deal with some small tensions. Be moderate.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
You will be able to improve your social life. You will not always be in the best of moods. Avoid being all too selfish. Be more responsive.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**  
You will find it a little harder to make up your mind. There will be some puzzling aspects to the situation. Avoid doing anything rash or on the spur of the moment. Be objective.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**  
You will find it easier to stay on good terms with those close to you. You are liable to be a little too impatient. It will do you good to spend a few hours in the open air. Be tactful.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
Now is a good time to make a few changes about the house. You should make sure you do not spend more than you know you can afford. Avoid engaging in gossip. Be flexible.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**  
You are inclined to be a little too argumentative. You should take special care not to fall into a trap. Do not react more vehemently than the occasion demands. Be considerate.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**  
You will be able to have a pleasant day. Only you must avoid eating too much or drinking too heavily. Take even better care than usual when driving. Be frank.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**  
You should not expect others always to agree with you. You have the wind in your sails but you must watch where you are heading. Avoid doing anything that you know your partner would not like.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
The situation is rather involved so try to see things from different perspectives. Do all you can to calm your nerves, think less of work. Leave yourself more room for manoeuvre. Be generous.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**  
You will be able to revise your opinions in the light of new evidence. Others will rely on you, so do not lead them astray. Make sure you do not abuse your health. Be cordial.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**  
This is going to be a happy day for you. You should not however expect others to do all you would like them to do. Make sure you do not overtake yourself. Be jovial.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**  
Others are more likely to listen and take heed of what you say. You should not forget to do something you have said you would. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be sensible.



## SNIPPETS

### Deposit \$75,000 ... if you want to retire in the Philippines

FOREIGNERS seeking to retire in the Philippines must deposit from \$50,000 to \$75,000 each with accredited banks and convert this into investment after six months, the immigration commission said recently.

Foreigners 50 years old and above must put up \$50,000. Those between 40 to 49 must deposit \$75,000.

The retirees will enjoy tax exemptions on their pensions from abroad.

Retired military personnel of foreign governments recognised by the Philippines, Filipinos who have acquired citizenship in another country and former members of the diplomatic corps who had served for at least three years will have to deposit \$50,000 to enjoy the retirement programme, the immigration commission said.

### \$529 million World Bank loan for Philippines

THE World Bank will lend the Philippines additional loans totalling \$529 million to enable the country to meet its financial requirements and support various development projects.

These loans consist of \$175 million for the housing sector reform, \$150 million for the government corporate reform, \$144 million for the Bacon-Manito geothermal project and \$60 million for irrigation.

### Senate to probe \$50m power plant mystery

THE Senate Blue Ribbon (fact-finding) committee is looking into a possible multimillion dollar irregularity in a government plan in 1979 to boost the power capacities of electric cooperatives through the purchase and installation of mini-hydro powerplants.

In a committee hearing the other day it was reported that the Philippine government got loans amounting to \$50 million from China, France, and England to buy mini-hydro plants from these countries.

Out of 213 units, only 35 reportedly have been installed.

### Marcos bills still legal tender

CENTRAL Bank Deputy Governor Gabriel C. Singon announced that the P100 bills bearing the signature of deposed President Marcos and the late CB Governor Gregorio Lirio with "Ang Bagong Lipunan" legend are legal tender.

He stressed that currency notes do not cease to be legal tender just by the mere fact that the signatories therein are no longer in office or are already dead.

They cease to be legal tender only when called in for replacement or retirement in accordance with law.

To date, the Central Bank has not called in such notes for replacement, Singon said.

Any existing notes of this series now in the possession of banks and the public are legal tender, Singon added.

The CB said only unfit/dirty notes are withdrawn from circulation.

### Help Aquino against coups, advises Marcos

FORMER President Ferdinand Marcos called on the Filipino people to join hands in helping the Aquino government block all forces of communism and coup plotters.

In a 12-minute talk from Honolulu with radio station DZWX, Marcos asked the public to strengthen the government. He was interviewed over radio programme "Bombo Radyo Banat" hosted by Jimmy Lozano and Macky Magpili in Baguio City.

### 'Sparrows' scaring eagles

DAVAO CITY — The eagles on Mt. Apo here are scared of the 'sparrows'.

This has been noted at the Philippine Eagle Conservation Project (PECP) in Baracatan, Toril district, where the big rare birds are harassed by frequent gunfire of New People's Army rebels who are reportedly roaming in bands in the area.

## Aquino gives Ramos clean bill of health

PRESIDENT Aquino defended Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos against charges of service inexperience and involvement in plots against her.

She dismissed suggestions that Ramos, armed forces chief of staff for two years, had at one point plotted to overthrow her and said he had repeatedly proven his loyalty by blocking coup attempts.

"As far as I am concerned, Ramos has proven himself, not only now but also in the past, especially in his abiding by the constitution," Aquino told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

Ramos is generally regarded as one of Aquino's key backers and has crushed three armed uprisings by the military as well as other coup plots.

## Ramos' accuser under probe

THE wife of a Navy captain linked to at least two coup attempts and the assassination of a leftist labour leader is under investigation for breach of national security.

Gen. Renato S. de Villa, AFP chief of staff, said Marilyn Robles, wife of Navy Capt. Rex Robles, may be in possession of classified documents that "not even ranking military officers who don't have anything to do with certain operations may see."

"We are investigating the matter," de Villa said. "I have already assigned somebody to take care of it."

De Villa was referring to a sup-

posed "top secret" military report Mrs Robles showed reporters recently. The document, according to her, detailed a coup plan codenamed "Oplan Camia" which, she said, Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos was involved in when he was still armed forces chief of staff.

Mrs Robles showed reporters the cover of the document marked "top secret," but not its contents.

Mrs Robles said the plan is similar to the "God Save the Queen" plot allegedly spearheaded by officers of the Reform and the AFP Movement (RAM) in November 1986. The plot involved assassinating officials perceived as leftists, installing a military junta, and reducing President Aquino to a mere figurehead of "queen."

Mrs Robles said she took the documents from her husband's safe after the National Bureau of Investigation implicated him in the Nov 13, 1986 murder of leftist labour leader Rolando Olalia and his driver.

### Mystery of the golden Buddha

## Marcoses named in \$60 billion lawsuit

HONOLULU: Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda, have been named in a \$60 billion lawsuit that accuses them of stealing a one-ton Buddha statue and other World War II treasures from a Filipino locksmith.

The suit claimed the Marcoses seized the treasures from Roger Roxas in April 1971, three months after the locksmith allegedly found the statue, gold bullion, precious stones, jewelry, coins and art works hidden by Japanese occupation forces in 1945.

In turn, the Marcoses hid, sold and invested some of the proceeds from the treasures

valued at \$60 billion, the suit said.

The suit also accused Marcos of imprisoning Roxas for two years and subjecting him to "physical beatings, underwater submersion and the administration of electrical current," to his body.

The suit was filed Friday by Honolulu attorney Ward D. Jones on behalf of Roxas and his Golden Buddha Corp.

Marcos refused to comment on the lawsuit, and referred all questions about it to his attorney, John Bartko of San Francisco.

"It's a very old matter that's

been brought up many times before," Bartko said in a telephone interview.

Roxas' claims concerning the golden Buddha have been the subject of legal action in the Philippines and the United States, Bartko said.

Last year, the Golden Buddha Corp. filed a claim with the US government for a portion of the \$7.1 million the Marcoses brought with them when they fled the Philippines to begin their exile in Hawaii in 1986.

The Los Angeles Times quoted Los Angeles attorney Daniel C. Cathcart earlier this week as saying other Honolulu

## Positive response from Singapore on maids

HERE is good news for Filipino women domestic helpers in Singapore.

The Foreign Maids Recruitment Agencies Association of Singapore has assured the Philippine government of its full cooperation in complying with its hiring regulations for domestic helpers.

Ambassador Francisco L. Benedicto wired Labour Secretary Franklin M. Drilon that all agencies engaged in the placement of Filipino women will implement the minimum wage of 300 Singapore dollars and have their employers pay for the fare of maids.

Benedicto also said that the membership of the association has increased to more than 50, which is over twice the number prior to the ban of household recruitment starting Feb 15, 1988.

"The association now represents almost all the active employment agencies which are engaged in the placement of Filipinas," Benedicto said.

Among the matters discussed during the recent meeting with the recruitment agencies were the following:

- A hotline to the labour ministry for maids in distress.
- Closer and formal links between the labour ministry, Philippine labor attaché and the association to coordinate matters.
- Providing pamphlets to maids, advising them where they can seek assistance in the event of distress and general information on employment matters.
- "We have identified several loopholes that need to be plugged to ensure successful continued compliance," Drilon was told by Benedicto.

Benedicto said, however, that the greatest threat to the problems of maid-hiring will come from agencies which are not subject to the association's influence, "direct hiring and maids leaving Manila as tourists."

They can circumvent the minimum wage and other provisions of the law, Benedicto said.

Benedicto said the association is prepared to insure strict compliance among its members in coordination with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Philippine embassy.

"We would like to discuss control measures to plug these loopholes with POEA administrator Tomas Achacoso, as soon as possible," Benedicto said.

"Top on our list is our request that only association members be accorded the privilege of accreditation. Since all the active agencies placing Filipinas are members of our association, there should be no problem in granting such exclusivity," he added.

Benedicto said the announcement of the ban on Filipino domestics "world-wide" has produced the desired response from recruitment agencies which have manifested their intention to comply with the government's regulations.

"If you have any instructions regarding conditions your department feels should be taken up with the authorities concerned with these matters, I will make the necessary representations with the Singapore government with the assistance of Mr Achacoso, in consultation with the association officers and members," Benedicto said.

## Dollars versus Filipina dignity

THE government's attempt to correct the situation and improve the conditions for Filipinas working as domestics overseas has not escaped criticism and resistance. The reason are obvious.

Increasing number of Filipinas have looked to greener pastures abroad, taking jobs at much lower salaries than their counterparts in the host countries. But low is relative. The wages they receive abroad are much, much more than they could ever earn here as, say, teachers. And when the money is sent home, the sums convert to a grand largesse in pesos.

Thus, the President's total ban on the export of Filipino housemaids displeased those whom she intended to help and protect. Conditions at home are such that Filipinas are willing to take whatever risks may be involved in their employment abroad.

The President's action was a reaction to reports of sexual abuse and oppressive working conditions to which Filipino housemaids have been subjected in foreign countries. The ban — which covers Filipinas under age 35 — is temporary and will be imposed on until the Philippine government can secure sufficient guarantees for the protection of migrant workers.

The labour department has issued guidelines of exemptions of certain cases and certain countries.

Bilateral agreements with three countries in the Middle East — Iraq, Jordan and Qatar — assure ample protection for Filipinas workers there. The government is also preparing to negotiate with other countries which have expressed interest in establishing similar agreements.

Clearly, the ban has served notice to all those foreign countries where cases of abuse have been reported. It is a step in the right direction.

Remittances of Filipino housemaids overseas add up to a substantial sum in foreign exchange every year. But the transaction has cost the nation dearly — trading the dignity of Filipinas in the process.

The labour department must speed up its efforts to set up the



necessary mechanisms to ensure the welfare of Filipino housemaids. Otherwise, the backlash may come from the very people the government wishes to protect.

— Editorial, Philippine Inquirer

### By Luzviminda Bagumbayan

COUPS come and go, the wheel continues to turn, sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. For Gregorio Honasan, 1987 was a series of ups and downs — and downs — the mean blues.

There is one bright spot in Honasan's life, and true to myth, the bright spot is a girl.

Klarina Fatima Honasan, born April 24, 1987, visits the RPS "Andres Bonifacio" daily from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, there to fulfill the legend that there is "a woman in Honasan's life" and totally upstaging her mother, Jane. "Madonna and child," his friends tease Honasan and Kookie, but he is oblivious to his surroundings when the baby is around.

Thought it seems yet another ironic twist in Honasan's life that the landlubber cum jungle stomper now floats around on some tub in the bay, the man has taken to his new life like a duck to water.

Commander Fred Tuvilla and officers and crew numbering a hundred or so have found an enthusiastic, naval student in Honasan. In his spare time (of which he has much apart from the family visits), he is learning the rudiments of inter-island navigation. The Army man pores through Knight's "Seamanship" to learn the difference between draft and freeboard, charting a course, maintaining speed and visual fixes.

When the "Bonifacio," a coast

## Gringo's little lady



Klarina Fatima: one bright spot in Gregorio Honasan's life

guard type warship, was sent on a rescue mission to the Dona Paz disaster at Tablas Strait, Honasan took his turn standing four-hour watches. When P77 (the ship's bow number) needed minor repairs, down to Batangas ship and detainee sailed.

A day in Honasan's life follows the ship's schedule. At sunrise reveille, the boatswain's pipe (whistle) toots for morning calisthenics.

Muster is called at eight. The men go into formation, plans of the day are read, education and

informational items announced, and a headcount taken.

Honasan has a set course around the 300-foot long ship which he runs every morning at nine, timing himself for speed.

Then he reads a range of books and magazines. Time, Newsweek, Navy manuals, Ninja, Zen, Special Air Service Commandos manuals (in early 1984, in preparation of EDSA '86, 150 RAMBOYS trained under the ex-SAS mercenaries), "Atrocious Etiquette" — belying his bent for black humor, make up the AIM

graduate's menu for the balance of the morning.

After lunch, Jane, Kookie, and on weekends sons Kim (13, Ateneo), Kit Martin (11, Aquinas), and Karel Paolo (7, Ateneo) as well, come aboard.

Wife Jane unloads books and notebooks, all for his autograph, plus letters galore, mostly from teachers, asking him to be a guest speaker. He signs the autographs and writes quick notes politely declining speaking engagements.

Odd gifts arrive from time to time, including two cases of brandy (unsolicited but appreciated by men and crew, though he himself is teetotal), and four guitars which he did solicit to form a ship's combo.

Then it's five, the cutter comes to pick up the family, and the RPS "Andres Bonifacio" is once more like an empty stage.

In the gloaming, on ship lying at anchor two miles from shore, introspective with the warning sunset on the bay, Honasan must wonder how Jane manages to cope. For one thing, she has received a deadline, long past, to vacate their quarter at Aguinaldo by Jan 15. His own pay envelope has stopped coming since the end of November when he was dropped from the rolls. How must the children be faring with the negative publicity? He misses home.

But sundown on the "Bonifacio" is combo hour. Out come the four gift guitars, and it's scutubutand music time.

In the next life, Honasan threatens to join the Navy. For now, with all the uncertainty, the only bright spot in 1987 and 1988 is Kookie. All 10 months of her.

### Aviation industry set for take-off

## Defying all odds

The Defiant 300, the first locally-made commercial airplane completed a successful maiden flight in the Philippines recently.

By Jim Gomez

THE country's first locally-made commercial airplane made its maiden flight recently in an event hailed by aviation experts as "a feat that defied all odds."

It's a milestone in the (aviation) industry. Air Transport Secretary Victorino Palpal-laloc said as the two-seater single-engine lightplane took off from the runway of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Capt. Panfilo Villaruel, an aviation bug who pilots private commercial planes, built the P6-million craft in two years out of local materials except for its American-made, 300 horsepower engine.

Dubbed the "Defiant 300", the plane is made of locally-manufactured plastic, Tangle and Palosapis, and conforms with existing international standards, Villaruel said.

"It's called 'Defiant' because it defied all odds. It defied the Filipinos' lack of confidence in themselves and the quality of their work," Villaruel told reporters. "We have the talents, the

pilots who can spin off a lot of things in the (aviation) industry, but it's ironic they end up doing different jobs."

**Supported**  
Government and private agencies supported Villaruel in building the "Defiant" which is, so far, the most sophisticated airplane built in the Philippines.

Filipinos attempted to build their own planes in 1953, but were stalled by lack of support from the private sector and the government.

Indonesia and Singapore have since led in plane-manufacturing in Southeast Asia.

Villaruel said a local assembly plant can mass-produce the "Defiant" with the support of the government and private sector.

Shortly after completing the construction of the plane, Villaruel said he received a message from Dr. Stig Lundgren, an aviation official in Sweden.

Lundgren's congratulatory message read: "Happy to hear that you have started to crawl. Now you are ready to stand up and walk towards unlimited sky."

## The Philippines: two years after revolt

By Patria Amor

MANILA, (AE): The Philippines has virtually completed the basic political and economic reforms two years after the Aquino Government assumed power in a near-bloodless military uprising.

Banking on "people power," which toppled the Marcos government, President Aquino has installed a new constitutional government and pursued an agenda for economic recovery.

But prospects for greater political stability and economic prosperity are being threatened by communist insurgency and the Muslim secession in the south.

The outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, backed by its 25,000-man New People's Army, and the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front, supported by its 10,000-man Bangsa Moro Armed Forces, now pose the most serious threat to national security.

A new constitution is in place, a new legislature is functioning, and the January 18 local elections have virtually completed the "last stage" of political normalisation.

All told, a US-type liberal

democratic government is in full operation.

President Corazon Aquino now shares power with members of the new congress and local officials in a new liberal democratic setup in contrast to Marcos's authoritarian rule.

So the presence of this government is seen by political observers as the best antidote to any attempt to install another authoritarian regime through right-wing military coups.

On the economic front, the government has pursued economic measures to realign policies from plain economic survival under the Marcos regime to economic recovery.

### Measures

Inheriting an ailing economy brought about by the worst post-war economic recession, which struck the national economy in 1983, the government has lowered soaring inflation rates, stabilised foreign exchange rates, dismantled monopolies and price controls, adopted a 29-measure package of tax reforms and rationalised the country's tariff structure under the import liberalisation programme.

The new administration has also initiated the privatisation of

more than 120 nonperforming assets, adopted a new Omnibus Investment Code, giving more incentives to investors, attacked graft and corruption in government, and streamlined the bureaucracy.

These economic measures enable the economy to post positive growth rates in contrast to the negative growth rates which marked the economy for three consecutive years before Marcos fell.

The measures have restored a new sense of economic well-being and confidence among Filipino and foreign investors, enabling government planners and decision-makers to concentrate on the goals of the Philippine Development Plan for 1987-92.

### Problem

On the social front, the government had realigned its national budget to increase allocations for basic services like health and education and welfare, and increase salaries for the more than 1.2 million government employees.

It has pursued programme of reform for rice and corn lands, while congress is still enacting a Comprehensive Agrarian

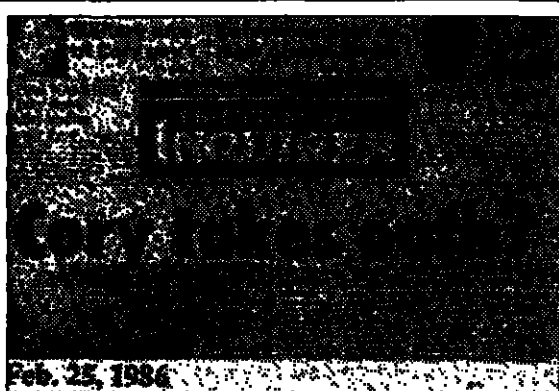
Reform Programme (CARP), and the National Shelter Programme and the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor are addressing the problems of the homeless and the more than three million urban poor in Metro Manila.

Only the tremendous problem of foreign debt exert enormous pressures on sustained economic development, since the nation has to shell out at least \$3.0 billion annually to foreign creditors.

The debt problem is seen by legislators, policy-makers and decision-makers as the single biggest obstacle to national economic recovery. For this reason, congress, being the policy-making body, is adopting a fresh approach to a possible renegotiation of the foreign debt.

Despite the gains made by the government in steering the nation toward political normalcy and economic recovery, communist insurgency has become more pronounced after the collapse of the negotiations for a political settlement with rebels last year.

The CPP-NPA and its political arm, the National Democratic Front (NDF), have asserted themselves in a series of



political, organisational and military offensives and initiatives. Despite claims of success, the administration has apparently failed to check communist insurgency through offers of amnesty or military force. By the AFP's own admission, the CPP-NPA-NDF has established its political and military presence in 60 out of the country's 73 provinces launching military offensives at the rebels' own sweet and time and chosen place of combat.

The communist insurgency has stalled the nation's drive for peace and order for economic stability. Political observers say the administration's political authority has eroded in many areas controlled or influenced by the rebels.

The insurgency has also

caused a decline in agricultural production, prompting the government to import rice, the nation's staple food. Foreigners are reluctant to invest in a country they view as a high-risk investment area.

In the south, Muslim secessionists threaten a new wave of military offensives shortly before the foreign ministers of 45-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) holds its annual meeting in Jordan on March 21.

The Muslim rebels, who want a separate state carved out of 23 provinces in Mindanao and other adjoining islands, are bent on bringing to OIC's attention the MNLF's application for regular membership is approved.

If its membership is approved, the MNLF will gain a status of

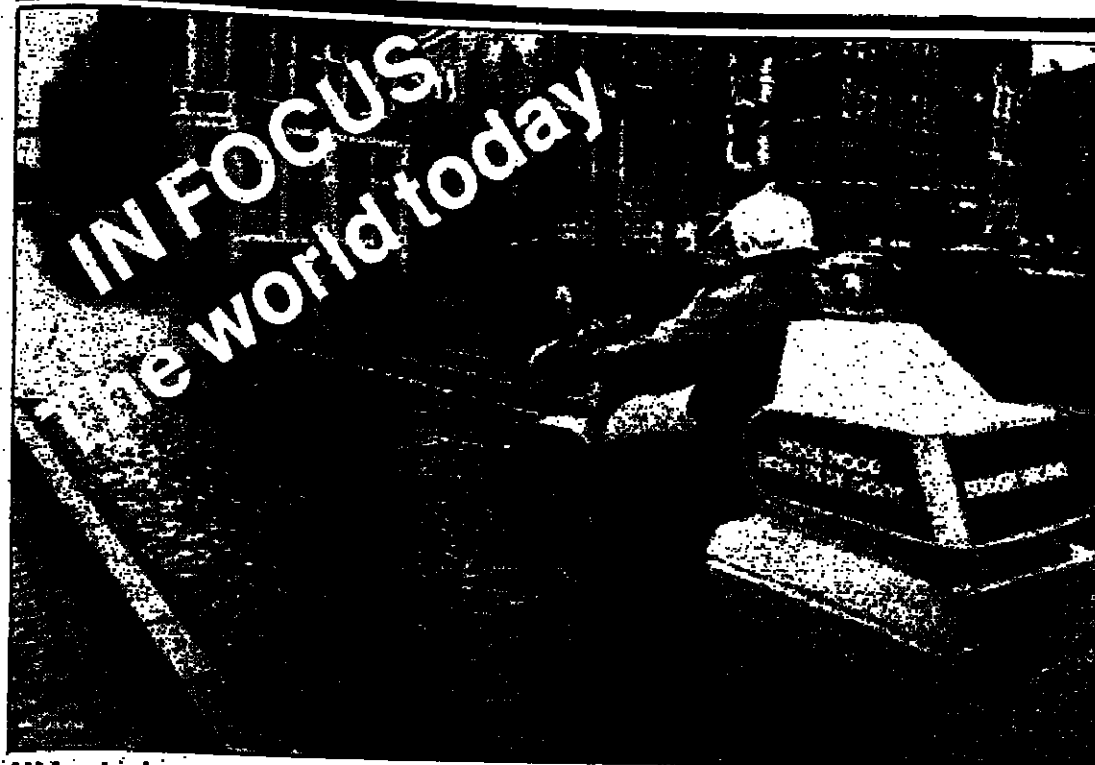
belligerency, putting it on an equal footing with the Aquino government. Moreover, it can easily use the political, material and moral support for its secessionist plans in the south.

"Much depends on the political will of the Aquino administration to face these challenges," says Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. There are reports that the administration is contemplating martial law, but the President has been quick to deny them.

Political observers say the administration has steered the nation from authoritarianism to liberal democracy, which has been the nation's legacy from the US. But whether the administration can steer the nation to greater political and economic heights remains a big question.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.





**IN FOCUS**  
The world today

AN Amsterdam pooper scooter on its early morning round in the touristic city centre. To fight the increasing problem of dog fouling on the pavement, the city has bought six mobile excrement removers. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN aerial view of a fire which roared through a Manila suburb, killing three people and destroying about 10 million pesos (\$476,000) in property. (Reuter wirephoto)



PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher meet after the ending of two days of talks with other Nato leaders in Brussels. (Reuter wirephoto)



A YOUNG Palestinian looks at anti-riot policemen in occupied Jerusalem as they patrol the Arab quarters of the Old City during the Friday prayers. (Reuter wirephoto)



CITY workers clean up barricades left by demonstrators during a calm day in Panama City. Smouldering barricades were the only evidence of the recent conflicts with police. (Reuter wirephoto)



TWO Egyptian workers brush off dust and salt crystals from the cavity which resulted from the detachment of a stone slab from the right shoulder of the Sphinx, a 5,000-year-old monument with the head of a human being and the body of a lion. Restoration of the rock and other cracks will only begin when experts analyse the salt to insure correct procedure. (Reuter wirephoto)



TWO African scientists, who say they have discovered a drug which shows results in the treatment of AIDS, prepare to address an audience in Cairo. They are Ahmed Shafik (left) and Lurhuma Zirimwabagabo. (Reuter wirephoto)



SYLVESTER Stallone took time out from editing his forthcoming film Rambo III to meet one of his biggest fans, National Easter Seal Child Shawn Dennsteadt, an eight-year-old from New Jersey. (Reuter wirephoto)



SEVERAL hundred members of an extreme right group in Paris denounce the Israeli violence in the occupied territories against Palestinian residents. Their march led them to the offices of the French Human Rights Ministry. (Reuter wirephoto)



A FORMER miner holds a machete during a rally on the streets of La Paz while he chants anti-government slogans. The rally gathered over 1000 miners and started a march to Yungas, a tropical region where they will grow coca plants. (Reuter wirephoto)



U2, the rock group, pose for pictures after they won a Grammy for the best rock performance by a duo or group at the 30th annual Grammy Awards at New York's Radio City Music Hall. (Reuter wirephoto)



DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, wearing a cowboy hat, lifts Richard Martinez of San Antonio as his mother Veronica Martinez watches, during a campaign tour. (Reuter wirephoto)



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## 'Investment is changing the face of America'

### Growing foreign investment in US under review

NEW YORK, March 5, (Reuters): A "tidal wave" of foreign investment washing over the United States is quickly eroding the country's economic and political power, according to a new book called "Buying into America."

The husband-and-wife authors, Susan Tolchin, a professor at George Washington University in Washington, and Martin Tolchin, a New York Times reporter based in the US capital, travelled the country and sifted through piles of documents to find the extent of foreign investment in the United States.

They concluded: "Foreign investment is changing the face of America, the lives of Americans and the nature of our political process."

The Tolchins say there has been little objective talk or questioning of foreign investment. The Reagan administration,

they say, welcomes it with open arms.

"We are so greedy for foreign investment we don't care where it comes from," Susan Tolchin said in an interview with Reuters. "Our policymakers are only looking at the beneficial side and don't want to look at the problems."

"Our political and economic independence is being slowly compromised by all of this," she said. Aside from the drain of profits headed abroad, there are indirect costs to the country, such as the loss of research and development units when a foreign group takes control of a US company.

"With the drop in the dollar, we're now a bargain," she said. The level of investment has grown tenfold in the past decade, and "we expect it to grow even more than that over the next 10 years."

Much of the investment is never reported, the Tolchins say in their book, since US regulations are lax.

They even document the case of a Soviet group that nearly managed secret takeovers of strategically significant California finance companies several years ago. The CIA thwarted them at the last minute.

"We are the most open system in the world in terms of welcoming outside investments," said the author, adding some 50 per cent of foreign ownership is not reported.

Began four years ago, the book's release could hardly have been more timely. The US trade deficit has been viewed as one possible cause of the October stock market crash.

And political debate has been charged by the trade issue—most noticeably in the strong presidential run of congressman

Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat who has made trade restriction a centrepiece of his bid for his party's nomination.

Not surprisingly, the book has caused controversy. The Wall Street Journal said the Tolchins were "fueling foreign investment fear" with their book.

**Disagreed**  
Business Week magazine disagreed with some conclusions of the book but applauded the Tolchins for adding understanding of a problem that is "one of the most emotional yet poorly understood economic issues facing us."

Officially, the Tolchins found, foreign investment in the United States is put at about 1.3 trillion (\$1,300 billion). But investors from abroad may own \$2 trillion or more in American assets, said Susan Tolchin.

The United States should follow the example of its trading

partners and look more closely at how the flow of investment capital affects the flow of trade. But instead, "we tend to look at foreign trade and foreign investment as separate."

"We have to talk about what's happening—it's the biggest shift in capital in the history of the world. And we're not paying much attention to it. It's just coming to the tip of the American consciousness," she said.

Politicians have taken a short-sighted view of the problem, worrying most about bolstering local economies, and sometimes, their own political careers, she said.

"Senators have told us that they can no longer take an independent position on trade legislation because of the power of foreign investors in their home districts," said Tolchin. "And in order to get jobs, mayors and governors are circling the globe

looking for foreign investors." In their book, the Tolchins paint a picture of these representatives from "main street America" being taken for a ride.

**Eagerly**  
"They're (politicians) making great compromises" in the effort to help constituencies, she said. While states and cities eagerly compete to offer the best incentives such as tax cuts and free land to get new plants and business, they are giving up valuable revenues and strategic advantages in the long run.

The Tolchins call this cut-throat competition for foreign business dollars "economic fratricide."

The bottom line, she said, is that they are coming to America not to lead the cities and states a helping hand but "to acquire vital technology, to beat out the competition and to corner US markets."

## Tunisia to expand industry

TUNISIA will use a \$28 million World Bank loan to further develop its small- and medium-scale industries. The project is part of the country's overall effort to foster industrial entrepreneurship and to generate employment in economically sound projects at a relatively low cost.

The project also builds on the successful completion of two earlier projects in the sector and includes a line of credit of \$27.5 million divided among three commercial banks (Banque de Tunisie, Banque du Sud and Societe Tunisienne de Banque) and two development banks (Banque de Developpement Economique de Tunisie and Banque de Tunisie et des Emirats d'Investissement).

Technical assistance will be provided to industries to help them design investment projects and resolve managerial and technical problems.

The project appraisal and supervision capacity of the participating banks will be improved.

Small- and medium-scale industries represent about 85 per cent of all manufacturing enterprises in Tunisia and employ about 65 per cent of the labour force in the manufacturing sector.

## Venezuela to build new aluminium plant

CARACAS, March 5, (Opecna): Venezuela will increase its aluminium output by 180,000 tonnes a year by 1990 following the completion of a new smelter in the eastern part of the country.

Work on the construction of the plant, which is to cost about \$670 million, is scheduled to begin in July.

The plant is being set up under joint-venture arrangements between Aluminium Del Caroni (Alcasa) of Venezuela, Austria Metal of Austria and Pechiney of France. A formal agreement was signed here on Monday by the three companies.

The facility will be operated by Alansa, a joint venture between the three companies, in which Alansa holds 30 per cent of the equity, and Austria Metal and Pechiney 40 and 30 per cent respectively.

The project is part of a programme to expand the Venezuelan aluminium industry and, consequently, step up non-oil revenues.

## Bank of America cuts staff in Bahrain

BAHRAIN, March 5, (Reuters): Bank of America is cutting the staff at its Bahrain off-shore branch by six because of changing market conditions in the Gulf region, an official said today.

But local manager Zaker Mahmoud denied market rumours that the San Francisco-based bank, which opened its Bahrain unit in 1976 during the oil boom, intended to close its Bahrain operation by the end of the year.

### Active

"We are committed to the region for a long term... we shall remain an active full-fledged branch in Bahrain," Mahmoud told Reuters.

The branch, with a current staff of 15, serves all Gulf Arab states and North and South Yemen.

The number of off-shore banking units in Bahrain has dropped to 65 from 74 at the end of 1985.

## How the international financial structure survived the shock

By Midas

ONLY now, four and a half months since Black Monday, has a really clear picture emerged of what exactly went wrong on the world's stock exchanges last October. It's a strange tale, in some respects not as serious as everyone thought at first, but in other ways even more terrifying.

To take the first point first, it now seems unlikely that the world is on the brink of a major Depression, and some of the blackest predictions of a 1929-style collapse of the financial system as a whole now seem rather overdone.

Nevertheless, it is undeniable that the world came unacceptably close to disaster and the pressing need to discover exactly how and why it happened with such unexpected violence has led to several reports on the exact events of last October.

**Panic**  
The simple answer as to what went wrong seems to be 'panic'. With hindsight, every financial operator who talks to tell you that prices were way too high, the crash was 'inevitable' and he, or she, had seen it all coming but nobody would listen.

However, this was far from the common view in early October. True, people felt that prices were high, but the summer correction seemed to have taken care of that and very few people indeed expected a crash of such gigantic proportions.

So how did it happen? In New York, at least, one of the major villains was a financial piece of sleight of hand known as portfolio insurance.

This system was mainly applied to huge blocks of stockholdings of pension funds and mutual funds totalling more than \$60 billion. Using computers, the portfolio insurance system meant that pension fund man-

agers would buy or sell futures as a way of trying to even out the performance of their giant portfolios. Thus, if they suspected the market would fall, they would sell stock and use the money to buy futures on the market as a whole.

There was a major problem with the system, however, in that it exaggerated any market fall, so if the market dropped by ten per cent, then the computers would suggest that the pension funds sold 20 per cent of their stocks.

Naturally, these huge sales would force the market to drop even further, triggering more sales and so on. This led to another unsuspected problem of disastrous proportions.

If huge amounts of stocks were being dumped onto the market, there simply wouldn't be anyone to buy them, therefore the price would more or less go into free fall.

On the Friday before Black Monday, the funds insurance portfolio insurance system sold \$2 billion worth of stock in New York, but their computers were hungry for even more sales.

Before the market opened on Monday morning the funds were anxious to sell approximately \$12 billion worth of stock. The effect on the market was rather like that of a huge tidal wave hanging over a beach... everybody panicked and tried to escape.

### Fiasco

Curiously, this enormous selling wave was not the most dangerous part of the entire fiasco, although it came perilously close to forcing the New York Stock Exchange to close down.

Far worse was the effect of the volatile rallies on Tuesday morning when prices swooped up and down, often by seventy or eighty per cent in as many minutes.

This was partly due to the fact that some traders thought that

the lower prices after Monday's crash presented excellent bargains, so they started buying. Others felt that things were only going to get worse and so kept on selling.

The resulting gyrations drove the market makers to the brink of collapse.

**Agony**  
Another aspect of the market's agony was the fact that the futures markets were all predicting lower prices for the future. Nobody wants to buy at 100 when the futures markets say the price will only be 75 in three months time. Thus, the futures market dragged the stock exchange down with it, each fuelling the other's pessimism in a self-fulfilling prophecy of doom.

As things got worse, many shares could no longer be traded for the simple reason that there were no buyers at all. If nobody wants to buy a share, what is its price? The only way out of this was dropping the price until someone is tempted to buy. In the crash, several companies found that there was no level at which the buyers were tempted at all, so they stopped trading.

Temporarily, at least, those shares were to all intents and purposes, worthless. **Investors**  
What now? Having come so close to the abyss, the majority of investors are naturally nervous of exposing themselves to it again.

Although prices have recovered somewhat from the depths, volume is still light as the majority of investors prefer to stay out of the markets. The question now is whether the stock exchanges of the world can be relied upon to take the necessary steps to prevent the October debacle from happening again, or if government legislation is required to force them to do so.

## America defends Mexican debt plan

WASHINGTON, March 5, (Reuters): US Treasury Secretary James Baker yesterday defended Mexico's idea of an auction to reduce its \$105-billion foreign debt and criticised a leading businessman's plan for a sweeping solution to the debt crisis.

"Anybody can solve the Third World debt problem if they're willing to put it on the taxpayer. If we had the money, a Marshall plan to solve the Third World debt problem would be a great idea, but we don't have the money," Baker told the Senate Budget Committee.

The chairman of American Express Co, James Robinson, proposed on Monday creation of an international agency that would buy, at a discount, the hundreds of billions of dollars of loans that banks have made to developing countries.

Baker, by contrast, firmly believes creditors and debtors must tackle the debt problem themselves and not turn it over to governments.

"We don't think that has much merit," Baker said of Robinson's idea. "It puts the solution squarely on the backs of taxpayers in the creditor countries. They would have to fund the facility in the initial instance."

Baker said there was no alternative to the established US strategy of helping countries to grow out from under their debt by offering new money to those that are willing to undertake market-oriented economic reforms.

"The idea that somehow there's some big magic bullet global solution out there to the debt problem is a distinct mirage," he said.

A "menu of options" has evolved which allows banks to pick the form of financing that best suits them, ranging from traditional loans to debt-for-equity swaps, and Baker said Mexico's debt auction was successful enough to be included as an extra dish on the menu.

In the auction, Mexico invited banks to tender their existing loans at a discount in return for higher-yielding new bonds secured by US government securities that Mexico would buy with its foreign-exchange reserves.

Mexico hoped banks would offer to swap as much as \$20 billion in loans for as little as 50 cents on the dollar.

But the Finance Ministry announced on Thursday it had received only \$6.7 billion in bids and had accepted only 3.67

## Belgium appeals for end to Generale battle

BRUSSELS, March 5, (Reuters): Belgium's caretaker government has urged Italian tycoon Carlo De Benedetti and his rivals to end a fierce battle for control of Belgium's biggest company and negotiate a strategy for its future.

In a letter to protagonists in the six-week struggle for Societe Generale de Belgique, Economic Affairs Minister Philippe Maystadt said the government would take action to protect the country's strategic interests.

Financial sources said today that the appeal is the government's first intervention in the fight for Societe Generale, which dominates the energy sector and other key areas of the economy such as the supply of sensitive commodities like cobalt used in defence materials.

**Attack**  
It coincided with a stinging attack by Rene Lamy, Societe Generale's embattled governor, on what he called Belgium's disorganisation and lack of national political leadership.

The tragedy of Societe Generale de Belgique is (representative of) Belgium's decay, Lamy told the newspaper Le Soir.

Belgium has been without a full-fledged government since Prime Minister Wilfried Martens' Centre-Right coalition

collapsed last October over one of the perennial disputes between Belgium's Dutch- and French-speaking communities.

The letter appeared to reflect growing impatience in the government at the failure of De Benedetti and French and Belgian firms opposed to his hostile bid to start serious negotiations, despite calls for talks by people in both camps.

"As things stand, the government considers that the struggles for influence which have been going on for several weeks are handicapping the management of Societe Generale," Maystadt said.

Sources in De Benedetti's camp said he and his Belgian allies, Flemish industrialist Andre Leyens and Pierre Scriver, managing director of holding company Cobepe, had agreed to Maystadt's request.

Maystadt said De Benedetti and French financial group Suez, which leads the rival alliance of companies, were both indispensable to getting an accord on an industrial development strategy for La Generale backed by a large majority of shareholders.

The government wanted Belgian partners in the two camps to be given an important role in the proposed talks, Maystadt added.

## Bonn to reschedule Nigerian debt

LAGOS, March 5, (Opecna): West Germany has agreed to reschedule the official and private debt owed by Nigeria, according to Abba Zoru, Nigeria's ambassador to Bonn.

He told Nigerian journalists who have just concluded a tour of West Germany that an agreement was expected to be signed during the official visit of President Rich von Weizacker to Nigeria starting this weekend.

The ambassador said details were being worked out by officials of the Nigerian ministry of finance and the final

agreement would be a climax of talks between West German officials and Nigerian Finance Minister Dr Chu Okungwu.

Meanwhile, Nigeria has approved a new external borrowing policy which will check "indiscriminate borrowing" from abroad, according to Chief of General Staff Vice-Admiral Augustus Aikhom.

He told a seminar on "management of Nigeria's external debt" that the policy would discourage borrowing from the capital market and favour borrowing from multilateral sources.

## Hungarian economist urges rethink on stock markets

BUDAPEST, March 5, (Reuters): A leading architect of Hungary's economic reforms said yesterday his country should rethink traditional communist opposition to stock markets, adding that Karl Marx never intended people to be poor.

Hungary has been a pace-setter among East European nations in introducing market-oriented economic reforms.

Josef Bogner, director of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Institute for World Economics, said it should now risk having a stock exchange for the sake of economic progress.

"I think both Hungary and the rest of the socialist community should reverse some of their preconceptions," Bogner told Eastern Europe's first conference on financial markets.

**Systems**  
"Marx did not want us to live in a poor country," he said.

"What we have to do is find the elements of a capital market which can be used to the benefit of the country," he said, adding that China had "dared" to suggest that two systems were possible within one country.

Hungary must get used to the idea that economic development would lead to some people getting rich, and should not be put off by the opportunities for dishonesty offered by stock exchanges.

"I think it is better to put 15,000 people in jail for their dishonesty than to stop progress," Bogner said.

## World Business Summary

### US employment gain may signal higher rates

WASHINGTON, March 5, (Reuters): A government report showing a surprising employment surge reflects a healthy US economy but could also signal increases in interest rates and the country's trade deficit, economists said. The US civilian unemployment rate fell from 5.8 per cent in January to a seasonally adjusted 5.7 per cent in February, its lowest level since July 1979, as 531,000 non-farm jobs were created, the Labour Department said yesterday. Most of the job growth was in construction, retail sales and business and health services, which include many high-paying white collar jobs, the Department said. But in manufacturing, which has already expanded payrolls in recent months as factories geared up to meet growing foreign demand for American goods made cheaper by a weaker dollar, there was a meagre 20,000-job increase last month, it said.

While the report helps to snuff out lingering warnings that last year's stock market crash would push the US economy into a recession this year, economists said it has worrisome aspects as well. They said the report does not bode well for the nation's stubbornly high trade deficit, which reached a record \$171.22 billion last year, but has been improving in recent months. The increase in service jobs, especially in retailing, shows that American consumers may still be on their spending binge, meaning import demand will remain strong, while the slim rise in jobs in the export-sensitive manufacturing area shows disappointing foreign demand for US products, they said.

"Obviously, we didn't have a lot of increase in exports, or we would have had more of an increase in manufacturing jobs," said Donald Ratajczak, director of economic forecasting at Georgia State University. "It probably will pull in some imports and I guess our trade balance is going to deteriorate," Ratajczak said.

### US Congress forecasts higher deficit for 1989

WASHINGTON, March 5, (Xinhua): The US congressional budget office said yesterday the federal deficit will rise from \$157 billion in fiscal 1988 to \$165 billion in fiscal 1989, \$35 billion higher than the White House estimates. Acting director of the congressional agency James Rasmussen said in the Senate Appropriations Committee that the administration is more optimistic about the US economy and that its forecasting is based on high economic growth assumptions. Rasmussen said the congressional budget office "foresees less rapid real growth, higher inflation and higher interest rates." The agency's predictions are more in line with private forecasts. The White House predicts deficits of \$146.7 billion for fiscal 1988 and \$129.5 billion next fiscal year. While the congressional budget office forecasts that the US economy will grow by 1.8 per cent this year and by 2.6 per cent next year, the Reagan administration assumes real economic growth of 2.4 per cent in 1988 and 3.5 per cent in 1989.

The House said Senate Budget Committee will soon begin drafting the government's spending programme. However, they are not expected to do more deficit cutting this year than President Ronald Reagan had proposed in this budget to Congress. His plan should have embodied the guidelines of a prior deficit-reducing compromise between the White House and Congress.

The US press suggested that with the enormous budget deficits, the US federal debt would grow from \$1 trillion to nearly \$2.3 trillion over the next 10 years.

### Singapore economy growing

HONG KONG, March 5, (Xinhua): Most of Singapore's major economic sectors grew creditably last year with manufacturing and transport and communications providing the impetus, according to a Singapore government survey as quoted by an Oana-Bernama report. The annual economic survey released last week by the Singapore trade and industry ministry said the growth was also largely supported by sectors like commerce, finance and business services, the Oana-Bernama report said. The survey said overall growth of the Singapore economy reached 8.8 per cent last year, against 1.8 per cent in 1986. Total exports of goods and services increased by 11 per cent, mainly electrical and electronic products, data processing machines, television and radio sets as well as telecommunications equipment. It said total investment commitments in Singapore last year grew by 21 per cent over 1986, heavily concentrated in the electronic industry. There were also substantial investments in supporting industries like plastic mouldings, precision tools and dyes and fabricated metal products, it added. For the second consecutive year, Japan emerged as Singapore's largest foreign investor country in 1987, accounting for 34 per cent of total foreign investments, an increase of 22 per cent. It was followed by the United States with 31 per cent of the total, up 23 per cent. The survey said the level of investments from Europe also grew sharply by 31 per cent, mainly for the manufacture of electronic components, computers and office equipment.

Broad-based economic expansion in Singapore also generated a net increase of 66,000 jobs in 1987, compared with 11,000 in 1986, the survey said.

### UK jobless rate drops again

LONDON, (LPS): Unemployment in Britain is now at its lowest level for nearly six years. The employment department has assured figures—revised to take account of the 1987 labour force survey—which show that the seasonally adjusted total of people out of work and claiming benefit fell for the 18th successive month in January to stand at 2,563,100. The fall between December and January was 50,800. Officials said this was in line with the trend of the last six months. Over the last year there has been a fall of 549,100—the largest annual decrease on record. The actual or 'headline' jobless total was 2,722,154 in January, a rise of 26,344 but well under the normal level of increases for this time of year. It was the smallest January rise for 15 years. Over the past year this unadjusted total has fallen by a record 575,082.

Once again all regions have benefited from the improving job situation, with the West Midlands, Wales, the North West and the north doing particularly well. The unemployment rate is down from 11.2 per cent a year ago to 9.2 per cent, the lowest level since November 1981. Although vacancies notified to jobcentres fell back in January, they are 18 per cent up on a year ago at 249,506. The blot on the labour market landscape, as far as Employment Secretary Norman Fowler was concerned, was the acceleration in average earnings inflation by a quarter point each month since September. He said last week "the unwelcome news this month is the rate of earnings growth of 8.5 per cent (in December). Some of this increase is due to higher overtime and bonus payments, but earnings growth at this level—more than twice the rate of price increases—reflects excessive pay settlements." It is not yet clear which factor is having the greatest influence. Bonus payments in December were 15 per cent higher than in December 1986, and overtime, although slightly down on the peak level of October was still high in the pre-Christmas boom at 13.42 million hours a week.

### Australia keen to invest more in China

CANBERRA, March 5, (Xinhua): Australia would like to see more investment in projects within China, Australian Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce, Senator John Burton said here yesterday. Burton is going to lead a delegation to Beijing to attend the second meeting of the Australia-China Joint Ministerial Economic Commission (JMEC) to be held there next week. The two nations currently have 15 joint ventures in China but there is further room for business to enter joint ventures, the minister added. The JMEC was established in 1986. The JMEC meetings are intended to foster trade, investment and other forms of economic cooperation between the two countries. The minister remarked, "many people would be surprised to know Australia and China trade over 2.1 billion Australian dollars (\$1.5 billion) worth of goods last year."



## Local market offers 'greater opportunities'

## US businessmen in Kuwait talks

By Jadranka Porter

ENCOURAGED by their reception in Kuwait, representatives of the American food and agriculture industry currently visiting the country have expressed hope that their visit may result in a greater variety of the US foodstuffs appearing in the local market.

A nineteen-member delegation, the largest of its kind to visit Kuwait, met yesterday with the representatives of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and some of the prominent food importers.

They displayed their products which range from honey to hot sauce and include some not so well-known items such as pecan and sunflower nuts, nutritious snack food, food equipment, malt beverages and dried mushrooms.

The manufacturers of these unconventional products are believed to stand a better chance of making faster inroads into the local market.

## Opportunities

"This market offers greater opportunities than I thought," said Bob Davis of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. "But this is also a very competitive market. You have to come with something original and carve a niche for yourself."

The American businessmen arrived from Bahrain where they took part in the Middle East Food Exhibition where many of



A member of the US delegation showing some agricultural products to American Ambassador Nathaniel Howell (left).

who plan to set up a new industry may be eligible for free land and are entitled to reduced power charges," said Davis.

At Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry the businessmen were briefed on local import and customs regulations and on joint venture requirements. Most liked what they heard.

There are advantages in doing business here. There is no tax and we were told that those

Welcoming the delegation, the US Ambassador to Kuwait, Nathaniel Howell, pointed out that the market in Kuwait was good, the prices were competitive and the political climate was

favourable. Despite the tension in the area "life goes on and commerce goes on," said Howell. "What we lack is people like you to push American products and services," he added. Howell felt the local market could accommodate a greater American presence in agricultural products as well as in manufacturing and service industries.

## Kuwait dinar deposit rates steady in quiet trading

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates were steady yesterday in quiet trading.

Dealers said the announcement of a 90 million dinar three-month treasury bill issue on Wednesday had little immediate effect on the market and there were few or no deals.

Liquidity has been boosted recently by maturing treasury bills and unmet demand for new issues.

Bonds for 120 million dinars are also due to be issued on Wednesday, but the amount of new bonds and bills will be less than the 228 million dinars in bills that mature on that day.

Overnight and tomorrow-next were offered at Thursday's 1/2 per cent level while spot-next was offered at one per cent and the one-week quoted four, three per cent.

## Unchanged

The fixed periods were virtually unchanged at 4-1/4, four per cent for the one-month, 4-5/8, 3/8 per cent for the three-month, five, 4-5/8 per cent for the six-month and five, 4-3/4 per cent for the nine and 12-month.

The Central Bank dinar exchange rate was firmer at 0.27588/98 to the dollar from 0.27628/98 on Thursday. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27693/99.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal inter-bank deposits were mixed in a very quiet market yesterday with fixed periods marked higher on the back of firmer dollar interest rates and day-to-day funds easing due to lack of demand.

Dealers said fixed period deposits were indicated 3/16 point higher in response to a rise in Eurodollar rates on Thursday and Friday, but no activity was reported.

Trade was minimal — a normal trend during the European weekend — and focussed on short-term funds as banks covered positions. Tomorrow-next traded at 6-1/2 and 6-1/4 per cent.

One and three-month funds rose 1/8 point on the offer side to seven, 6-3/4 per cent and 7-3/16, 15/16 per cent respectively. Six-months rose 3/16 point on the offer side to 7-3/8, 1/8 per cent.

There was no further news on a forthcoming Saudi government bond issue expected sometime this month. Traders last month built up long positions in anticipation the issue would push up rates, but have recently begun to unload one-month deposits amid fears the programme might be delayed.

The spot riyal was steady at 3.7501/04 to the dollar after similar quotes on Thursday. Gulf markets are closed during the Muslim Friday weekend.

## Maraven boosts oil exports

CARACAS, March 5. (Opecna): The Maraven oil company of Venezuela increased its 1987 oil exports by more than two per cent.

Last year Maraven exported an average of 450,000 bpd of crude, an increase of about 8,000 bpd over 1986.

Maraven, an affiliate of Petrosas de Venezuela (PDVSA), the state oil company, said that the improved performance of the company was due to infrastructural reforms, including an increase in its tanker fleet capacity through the acquisition of new and rented vessels and a better telecommunication system.

## KUWAIT

| BANK SECTOR   | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL    | TRADE |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| NATIONAL BANK | 0.890 | 0.890 | 0.890 | 0.890 | 760000 | 26    |
| GULF BANK     | 0.370 | 0.370 | 0.370 | 0.370 | 580000 | 27    |
| COMMERCIAL BK | 0.250 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| AHLI BANK     | 0.320 | 0.315 | 0.320 | 0.315 | 130000 | 6     |
| B.K.M.E.      | 0.300 | 0.315 | 0.315 | 0.315 | 20000  | 2     |
| K.R.E.B.      | 0.400 | 0.410 | 0.410 | 0.410 | 10000  | 1     |
| BURGAN BANK   | 0.255 | 0.260 | 0.260 | 0.260 | 10000  | 1     |
| K.F.HOUSE     | 0.485 | 0.485 | 0.485 | 0.485 | 50000  | 3     |

| INVESTMENT SECTOR | P.CLS | LT  | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
|-------------------|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|
| KWT INV. CO.      | 0.204 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| K.F.T.C.I.C.      | 0.210 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| K.I.T.C.          | 0.156 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| CON.FACILITIES    | 0.425 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| AHLIA INV.        | 0.000 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| I.F.A.            | 0.108 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| INV. PEARL KWT    | 0.108 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |

| INSURANCE SECTOR | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL   | TRADE |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| KWT INSURANCE    | 0.710 | 0.710 | 0.710 | 0.710 | 6437  | 1     |
| GULF INSURANCE   | 0.370 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| AHLIA INS. CO.   | 0.600 | 0.630 | 0.630 | 0.630 | 10000 | 1     |
| MARBA INS. CO.   | 0.485 | 0.490 | 0.490 | 0.490 | 50000 | 1     |

| REAL EST SECTOR   | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL   | TRADE |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| KWT R.E.S.T. CO.  | 0.248 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| UNIT R.E.S.T. CO. | 0.122 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 0.120 | 40000 | 1     |
| NAT R.E.S.T. CO.  | 0.230 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| SALAHIA R.E.      | 0.075 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| KWT PROJECTS      | 0.094 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| KWT R.E.I.CON     | 0.000 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |

| INDUSTRY SECTOR | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL   | TRADE |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| NAT IND. CO.    | 0.510 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| KWT M.P. IND.   | 0.310 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 20000 | 1     |
| KWT CEMENT CO.  | 0.238 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| REF. IND. CO.   | 0.385 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| N.A.M.T.CO.     | 0.000 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| GULF CABLE      | 0.970 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| K.PH.IND. CO.   | 0.130 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| CONT.MARINE     | 0.350 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| K.SH.REP.CO.    | 0.046 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |

| SERVICES SECTOR | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL    | TRADE |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| OVERLAND TRANS  | 0.080 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| K.W.C.CO.       | 0.218 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| KWT HOTELS CO.  | 0.174 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| P.WAREHOUSING   | 0.150 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| CON.MKT.CMPX.   | 0.021 | 0.021 | 0.021 | 0.021 | 160000 | 2     |
| MOBILE TELE.    | 0.385 | 0.380 | 0.380 | 0.380 | 30000  | 1     |
| KWT COMPUTER    | 0.204 | 0.206 | 0.206 | 0.206 | 260000 | 6     |

| FOOD SECTOR     | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL   | TRADE |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| LIVESTOCK T.T.  | 0.244 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| UNIT FISHERIES  | 0.140 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| UNIT POULTRY    | 0.258 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |
| KWT FOODS       | 0.310 | 0.310 | 0.310 | 0.310 | 60000 | 2     |
| AGRI. FOOD PRD. | 0.150 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---   |

| NON-KWT SECTOR  | P.CLS | LT    | HIGH  | LOW   | VOL    | TRADE |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| BHN. INTER.BK   | 0.068 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| BHN.M.EAST.BK   | 0.048 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| UNIT.GULF.BK    | 0.050 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| COAST INVEST.   | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.093 | 0.093 | 160000 | 2     |
| A.G. INV. CORP. | 0.039 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| FIRST.GULF.BK   | 0.870 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |
| B.K.I.G.        | 0.092 | ---   | ---   | ---   | ---    | ---   |

| KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE | P.CLS | LT  | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|
| FINANCIAL SECTOR      | P.CLS | LT  | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
| PEARL INV. CO.        | 0.098 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| GULF INV. CO.         | 0.942 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| GULF INTL. INS.       | 0.009 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| ARAB INT. CO.         | 0.055 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| SHARJAH INS.          | 0.000 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| GULF UNION INS.       | 0.055 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |

| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR | P.CLS | LT  | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
|-------------------|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|
| B-GULF MEDICAL    | 0.016 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| C.R.K.WHITE CMNT  | 0.018 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| D-AJMAN CEMENT    | 0.007 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| E-JUJAHAN CEMENT  | 0.009 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| F-SHARJAH CEMENT  | 0.011 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| G-GULF CEMENT     | 0.015 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |
| H-UNION GATWAIN   | 0.019 | --- | ---  | --- | --- | ---   |

|                   |       |      |      |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|
| -SHARJAH INS      | 0.000 | ---- | ---- |
| -GULF UNION INS   | 0.055 | ---- | ---- |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR |       |      |      |
| B-GULF MEDICAL    | 0.016 | ---- | ---- |
| C-R.K.WHITE CMNT  | 0.018 | ---- | ---- |
| D-AJMAN CEMENT    | 0.007 | ---- | ---- |
| E-FUJAIRAH CEMENT | 0.009 | ---- | ---- |
| F-SHARJAH CEMENT  | 0.011 | ---- | ---- |
| G-GULF CEMENT     | 0.015 | ---- | ---- |
| H-UMM QATWAIN     | 0.019 | ---- | ---- |

| SHIPPING MOV                  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH |  |  |  |  |

| B.No. | Ships Name  | Agent   |
|-------|-------------|---------|
| 2     | Safer       | Algh Ba |
| 9     | Uco 17      | Sagersh |
| 11    | Kailash     | Alqutub |
| 14    | Fathulkhair | KSA     |

**SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT**

| ETA | Ships Name | Agent |
|-----|------------|-------|
|-----|------------|-------|

|     |               |          |
|-----|---------------|----------|
| 6/3 | Anemos        | YAAS     |
| 6/3 | Barge Alia    | Gulf Sta |
| 6/3 | Tug Salvanita | " "      |
| 6/3 | Wu Jiang      | Mohd B   |
| 6/3 | Puma          | Al Bade  |

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

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## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

|      |                   |           |
|------|-------------------|-----------|
| 6/3  | Sunderbans        | Al Majid  |
| 7/3  | Sunset            | Roger     |
| 11/3 | Willine Orient    | Algh Bar  |
| 11/3 | Materlink         | Al Rashid |
| 12/3 | Barzan            | UASC      |
| 12/3 | Qatari Ibn Alfuja | UASC      |
| 20/3 | Ville Du Havre    | Al Rashid |

**COMPILED by Alghanim Barber Ship**  
**21708 Safat. Alghanim Industries I**  
**Shuwaikh. Phone 4842988/4843988, ex**

## It to surge ahead

| SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT | B.No.             | Ship Name   | Agent   | Tel. No. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| 2                                 | Calypso           | Mohd Bahar  | 2433881 |          |
| 4/3                               | Barbara Morgan    | Al Bader    | 2533537 |          |
| 5/3                               | Grace Liberty     | Al Kamal    | 2425437 |          |
| 6/3                               | Sunderbans        | Al Majid    | 2421439 |          |
| 7/3                               | Sunset            | Roger       | 2423642 |          |
| 11/3                              | Willine Orient    | Algh Barber | 4842988 |          |
| 11/3                              | Materlinck        | Al Rasheed  | 2422026 |          |
| 12/3                              | Barzan            | UASC        | 4814350 |          |
| 12/3                              | Qatari Ibn Alfaja | UASC        | 4843150 |          |
| 20/3                              | Ville Du Havre    | Al Rasheed  | 2422026 |          |

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## Economy looks set to surge ahead

## Australia plans commercial rocket base

SYDNEY, March 5. (Reuter): Experts are studying the possibility of building the world's first commercial space rocket base in Australia.

Promoters of the "spaceport", planned for a vast wasteland on the northern Cape York peninsula, say the first satellite launching pad in the South Pacific could underpin Australian economic prosperity in the 21st century.

"This spaceport presents Australia with a similar opportunity to that provided by sheep 200 years ago — it uses the country's natural advantages to the full," said Peter David, marketing coordinator for the Cape York project.

Goals The base would initially use multiple launch pads to send up satellites on expendable rockets. But in the long term the spaceport is seen as the Pacific "terminus" for a new generation of reusable spacecraft — and for space travellers.

The reusable spacecraft could fly passengers from Australia to Europe in three hours. "These are long-term goals, there will be no short-term profit. Australia seems in the mood to

## AMMAN

| AL HIMME MINERALS   | OPNG  | CLSG  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| AL-NISER EXCHANGE   | 0.79  | 0.79  |
| ALA-ADDIN COMPANY   | 0.89  | 0.90  |
| ARAB ALUMINUM IND.  | 1.38  | 1.42  |
| ARAB BANK           | 1.90  | 1.92  |
| ARAB CHEMICAL DTR   | 118.5 | 118.0 |
| ARAB FINANCE CORP.  | 4.32  | 4.35  |
| ARAB INSURANCE      | 1.47  | 1.48  |
| ARAB INT. INV/TRAD. | 1.00  | 1.00  |
| ARAB INT. UNION INS | 0.95  | 0.96  |
| ARAB INTER. HOTELS  | 0.33  | 0.38  |
| ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK  | 2.09  | 2.10  |
| ARAB PAPER CON/TRD  | 0.34  | 0.35  |
| ARAB PHARMA/IND     | 2.12  | 2.13  |
| ARABIAN SEAS INS.   | 0.76  | 0.75  |
| BANK OF JORDAN      | 1.65  | 1.65  |
| BEIJUNG INSURANCE   | 16.31 | 16.30 |
| CAIRO AMMAN BANK    | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| DAR AL SHAM PRESS   | 0.40  | 0.41  |
| DAR ALDAHIA DV/INV. | 1.47  | 1.50  |
| DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.  | 0.44  | 0.42  |
| DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS. | 0.62  | 0.62  |
| FINANCE/CREDIT/COR  | 0.61  | 0.60  |
| GENERAL INSURANCE   | 2.39  | 2.63  |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT  | 1.33  | 1.34  |
| GENERAL MINING      | 1.50  | 1.50  |
| HOLY LAND INS.      | 1.15  | 1.20  |
| IND./WATCH JEMCO    | 0.72  | 0.71  |
| INDSTR. DEVLPT BAK  | 1.31  | 1.31  |
| INDSTR./COMM/AGR.   | 1.50  | 1.49  |
| INDUSTRIAL INVEST   | ---   | ---   |
| INTERMED/PETRO/CH   | 1.50  | 1.52  |
| INTERCOM/INV        | 0.64  | 0.64  |
| IRBID ELECTRICITY   | 0.96  | 0.96  |
| ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE  | 0.64  | 0.64  |
| J.PRESS FOUNDATION  | 3.50  | 3.20  |
| JERUSALEM INS.      | 1.28  | 1.28  |
| JO TOBACCO/CIGARET  | 13.50 | 13.55 |
| JOR CEMENT FACT.    | 1.04  | 1.06  |
| JOR CERAMIC IND.    | 1.05  | 1.05  |
| JOR ELEC. INS.      | 25.01 | 25.05 |
| JOR ELECTRIC POWER  | 1.48  | 1.48  |
| JOR FINANCE HOUSE   | 1.03  | 1.03  |
| JOR GLASS INDUSTRY  | 1.20  | 1.18  |
| JOR HOTEL TOURISM   | 2.50  | 2.50  |
| JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.  | 1.72  | 1.71  |
| JOR INS AND FIN.    | 1.20  | 1.20  |
| JOR LINE AND BRICK  | 0.24  | 0.26  |
| JOR MANAG/CONSULT   | ---   | ---   |
| JOR NATIONAL BANK   | 2.43  | 2.43  |
| JOR PAPER CARDBROG  | 3.03  | 3.03  |
| JOR PHOSPHATE MINS  | 2.40  | 2.39  |
| JOR PIPES MANUFACT  | 1.17  | 1.1   |



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HONDA Accord '82 model, dark blue in very good condition. KD650. Tele. Ata. 4576475, 1-5pm. (AT2-41265-3)

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MAID required, Filipino, for a small family to live-in and to work out of Kuwait. Daily routine work. Must be English-speaking. Excellent salary plus benefits. Tele. Fawzi. 5395522. (AT2-41261-3)

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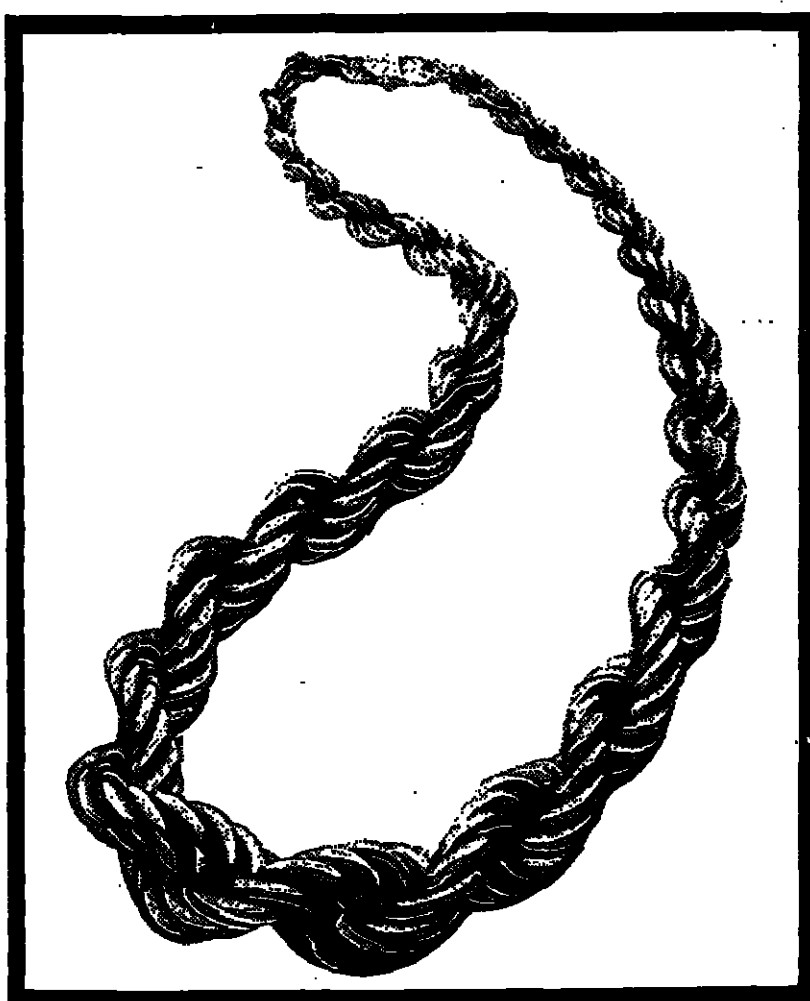


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## Maleeva and Hanika reach semifinals

WICHITA, Kansas, March 5. (AP) — Top seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria needed over a half hour before turning back the challenge of Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia yesterday in the quarterfinal round of the \$100,000 Kansas Women's Tennis Tournament.

The sixth seeded Novotna ripped big serves and forehand shots at Manuela but in the end Maleeva, world eight, defeated Novotna 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.

"At the one point, I thought it was almost over," said Maleeva. "At 3-2 in the third set I had lost a very long game. But I hung in there. This proves to me that I'm a fighter," she said.

Maleeva's accurate passing shots at one point were upstaged by blistering forehand returns from the 19-year-old Novotna, who is ranked No. 30 in the world.

Novotna lost service at 4-4 in the third set, which started her downfall.

### Rallied

"I was at 40-15 and I missed it. That's the difference in the top 10 players and the top 30," she said.

The victory puts Maleeva into the semifinals against Svetlana Parkhomenko of the Soviet Union, a 7-5, 4-6, 6-2 winner over compatriot Natalia Bykova.

Third seed Sylvia Hanika of West Germany rallied to eliminate American Peanut Louie Harper 2-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

Hanika had lost the first and was down 1-5 in the second when Harper began to falter.

Given a reprieve, Hanika began to charge the net and took control of the match.

"The 28-year-old Hanika said: 'she had not come from so far back to win since her days in junior tennis.'"

Hester Witvot of the Netherlands posted a 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Pascale Paradis of France and will meet Hanika in the other semifinal match.

## African sports body in boycott call over Budd

YAOUNDE, March 5. (Reuters) — Africa's major sporting body has called for a boycott of this month's World Cross-country Championships in New Zealand if South African-born runner Zola Budd is included in the British team.

Lamine Ba, secretary-general of the Yaounde-based Supreme Council for Sports in Africa, told Reuters yesterday that he regretted such a decision but it was a question of holding "the dignity of Africa and of mankind."

Ba said of the boycott call: "We are not boycotting for the pleasure of boycotting, because this deprives our athletes of a chance to compete with other athletes."

"But our decision will become effective when all possibilities of avoiding it have been exhausted," he added.

Ba said the Supreme Council had written a letter to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on February 25 asking her to discourage the participation by Budd "with a passport convenience" in the World Championships in Auckland on March 26.

The letter was conveyed through the British ambassador in Cameroon, where Ba's council has its headquarters.

Ba added that member countries of the Supreme Council due to take part in the championships had been asked by telex on the same day to stay at home if Budd participated in New Zealand.

Budd, 21, received a British passport in 1984 less than two weeks after arriving in England for the first time and represented Britain in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. She won the women's world cross-country title in 1985 and 1986 but did not compete last year because of injury.

She told British athletics chiefs in London this week she had severed ties with South Africa, whose apartheid race policies have led to it being banned from major international sports events.

Meanwhile, senior members of the Zambia Amateur Athletics Association, in interviews published by local newspapers today, said the association had written to the organisers of the competition asking them to confirm whether or not Budd, who has taken British nationality, would participate.

"If Zola Budd is participating, then Zambia will not send a team," association secretary Godfrey Mwanza told the Times of Zambia.

Mwanza said Budd's British citizenship was "cosmetic" and if Zambian athletes ran alongside her in the events this would be tantamount to Zambia condoning South Africa's apartheid system.

The association's vice-chairman, John Mufalali, told the Zambia Daily Mail that the association considered Budd to be South African.

## BECKER AND CASH GAIN SEMIFINALS

# Sanchez surprises Mecir

INDIAN WELLS, California, March 5. (AP) — Eight-seeded Emilio Sanchez of Spain upset second-seeded Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 yesterday in the quarterfinals of the \$702,500 Champions Cup tennis tournament.

Third-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany stopped Johan Kriek of South Africa, 6-3, 6-4; fourth-seeded Pat Cash of Australia stopped 11th-seeded Amos Mansdorf, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5; and seventh-seed Andre Agassi of the United States beat No. 15 Mikael Pernfors of Sweden, 0-6, 6-2, 6-2.

**Forced**  
In today's semifinals, Becker was to play Agassi and Cash was to face Sanchez.

Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the No. 1 seed who was upset Thursday, was forced to pull out of doubles play because of the flu. Under his doctor's advice he will not play in next week's Nabisco Grand Prix at Orlando, Florida, officials said.

Edberg and Cash had to forfeit their doubles match to Becker and Guy Forget of France.

After Sanchez swept Mecir in the second set, he then won the first five games of the third set for 11 straight. Mecir then won three



Cash: overcame Mansdorf

straight games before Sanchez won the final game with an ace. Losing the three straight "was very difficult," Sanchez said. "I knew I had another serve. I was

lucky to make my serves good after 5-3."

"When it was five-love in the third, there was nothing I could do," Mecir said. "There was no

reason to get nervous at that point, so I was just going for the shots. This is the first time I've lost to him."

With Sanchez serving, the third game of the second set went to deuce seven times. Mecir had four break points, but was unable to convert and Sanchez dominated the rest of the set.

"I was steady in the last two sets," Sanchez said. "Sometimes he plays good, sometimes he gives you a chance to get into the match. It's very important to move him. Every match I win, my confidence gets better."

Becker, who won the last three games of the first set, credited the match victory with his serve.

"In the second set I served and volleyed more. And every time he was trying to set the pace he was winning points. But when it mattered, I served well," he said.

Pernfors swept the first set against Agassi in 18 minutes.

Agassi took 4-0 leads in both the second and third sets, which each featured five straight service breaks.

Agassi said he was having trouble seeing when he was swept in the first set. "In the second set I started to perform better and I got on a roll," he said.

## Swiss on course for team title

ZURICH, March 5. (Reuters) — Switzerland beat West Germany 2-1 in the European Men's Team Tennis Championships Division One in Zurich yesterday to stay on course for their third title in a row.

Swiss Davis Cup stalwart Roland Stadler got the champions away to a good start by beating Ricki Osterthun in straight sets 6-4, 6-4.

But the Swiss number two Claudio Mezzadri, at 34 the highest ranked player in the championships was in poor form and went down by the same score to West German Carl-Uwe Steeb ranked a good five places below him.

**Decider**  
The champions had to call on the services of playing captain Heinz Guenthardt, a former Wimbledon doubles champion for the vital decider.

Mezzadri and Guenthardt clinched the tie 2-1 for the Swiss by overcoming Steeb and Patrick Kuehnen in the doubles 7-6, 6-3.

Earlier Jeremy Bates and Andrew Castle took the doubles beating Niklas Kroon and Magnus Tidemann 6-4, 7-6 to give Britain a 2-1 win over Sweden in their second tie.

**Hall of Fame**  
INDIAN WELLS, California, March 5. (AP) — Australia's Evonne Goolagong Cawley, winner of two Wimbledon women's singles and several Australian Open crowns, is to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, it was announced today.

The induction ceremonies will be held July 9 in Newport Rhode Island, during the Hall of Fame Championships tournament, said Hall of Fame vice-chairman William F. Talbert.

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Graf: played the first set badly

## Maleeva and Graf move into hardcourt finals

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 5. (Reuters) — Fourth seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria upset Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia yesterday in the semifinal round of the \$200,000 US Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Maleeva, ranked 13th in the world, eliminated the second seeded Sukova 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4.

"She stayed very close to the net," said Maleeva, who will play in her first final since October. "I had good lobs against her and it was not that difficult to do since she stayed so close to the net."

**Serve**  
Maleeva, who is now 4-2 against Sukova in matches, broke the Czech's serve to go up 5-3 in the final set.

Sukova broke back and closed to 5-4 but Maleeva broke Sukova in a love to earn a shot at the \$400,000 first prize.

But Maleeva will have to face a tough opponent — West German Steffi Graf, the top-ranked women's player in the world.

Graf won her 25th consecutive

match with a hard-fought two-hour struggle against third seeded American Lori McNeil 6-7 (2-7), 6-1, 6-1.

"I was just playing horrible," said Graf. "I had a bad day today and came into the match with a negative attitude. It took me a long time to realise what I was doing. I will try to relax and play better tomorrow."

In the first set, McNeil broke Graf three times. Neither player held service during the final three games as the set went into a 12-point tie-breaker.

In the second and third set, Graf found her game as she smashed hard volleys and passing shots from the baseline.

In doubles play, McNeil and Sukova seeded number one, fought off Larisa Savchenko and Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.

They will meet second American Gretchen Magers and South African Rosalyn Fairbank, who defeated France's Isabelle Demongot and Nathalie Tauziat 6-4, 6-4.

## N. Korea can still enter Games, says Samaranch

ANDORRA LA VELLA, Andorra, March 5. (AP) — The President of the International Olympic Committee said yesterday the door still was open for North Korea to enter the Summer Olympics in South Korea and accept an IOC compromise proposal to host a few events during the Games.

"There is still a possibility, it is up to North Korea to answer 'yes' or 'no,'" Juan Antonio Samaranch said.

**Agree**  
But "it may be too late... the time is passing and we still have to go to the international (sports) federations to agree to have competitions in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea," Samaranch said.

Samaranch made his comments before about 40 members of the media at the International Journalists' Ski Club.

Samaranch is an honorary member of the club.

Cuba and Libya also have announced a boycott of the Seoul

Games in solidarity with North Korea, while the major communist sports powers such as the Soviet Union and East Germany have accepted invitations to the Olympics.

"It was very helpful," to the success of the Summer Games for those countries to accept the South Korean invitation, Samaranch said. "It was a good step."

He called the Olympics at Calgary the best Winter Games ever. Samaranch took issue with suggestions that the Calgary Olympics had "crossed over the border" into all-out commercialisation of sports.

The time of only one hockey match was changed to draw a bigger television audience in the United States and Canada, and there were not even commercial billboards at the Calgary Games, he said.

Responding to questions about security, Samaranch said, "we think we will have very safe and friendly Games in Seoul."

## Wadkins increases lead

MIAMI, March 5. (AP) — Bobby Wadkins fired his second consecutive 67 yesterday for a two-stroke lead at the halfway mark of the \$1 million Doral Open golf tournament. Wadkins had been one-stroke ahead after the first round.

Wadkins, a non-winner in 14 seasons on the PGA Tour, completed two trips over the wind-blown Blue Monster course at the Doral Country Club in 10-under-par 134.

**Straight**  
Chip Beck, who scored his first career victory last week in Los Angeles, shot his second straight bogey-free 68 and reached the midway point of the tournament at 136.

"I think there's a lot of carry-over from last week," Beck said. "The putter still feels good in my hand, and that always helps."

Jack Nicklaus, a part-time tour player since scoring his fifth

Masters triumph in 1986, was another shot back at 137 after a 69.

"Probably the best I've played since Olympic (the US Open) last year," Nicklaus said.

Former champion Tom Kite, Dr. Gil Morgan and Robert Wrenn were next at 138. Wrenn had a 68, Morgan a 69 and Kite a 70.

The group at 139 included PGA champion Larry Nelson, Ben Crenshaw and two-time Doral champion Mark McCumby, who moved up with a 68.

Crenshaw shot 69 and Nelson had a 71.

Defending champion Lanny Wadkins, Bobby's older brother, had a 71 and was at 145.

Bobby, who has played much of his career in Lanny's shadow, got away to a birdie-birdie start.

"I felt very comfortable out there. I never put any pressure on myself. But the key was getting

off to a good start, guessing the wind right on the first few holes. After you do that, you feel you can handle it," he said.

"I'm looking forward to the next two days," added Wadkins, who has led throughout the first two days. "If I play good, great."

"I've changed by priorities some in the last few years. I'm 36. I have some money in the bank. I've decided the game of golf is just that, a game. I'm comfortable with it."

Nicklaus is finding some comfort from a new metal driver, a new pitching wedge and an old putting stroke.

He put the two new clubs in his bag this week. And, after watching some films of himself from his younger days, he's adjusted his putting stance.

"I feel a lot more comfortable, a lot more confident with the short putts than I have in a long time," he said.

## Norman opens gap at top

SYDNEY, Australia, March 5. (AP) — Australian Greg Norman, inspired by a hole-in-one at the par-three eighth hole, increased his lead to five strokes after today's third round of the \$200,000 Tournament Players' Championship at the par-72 Riverside Oaks golf course.

Norman shot a 4-under-par 68 for a 202 total, ahead of Australian Graham Marsh and Anders Forsbrand of Sweden.

Marsh shot a 5-under-par-67 on the day, while Forsbrand checked in with a 70. David Graham is fourth at 208 after also shooting a 70.

Norman's seven-iron approach sailed past the flag at the 166-yard eighth hole, but viciously spun back into the cup for his seventh career ace and his third in tournament play.

"At least I don't have to pay tax on that hole-in-one," Norman quipped after his round.

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## Caloocan outplay Manila to clinch bowling crown

CALOOCAN City (Steel Makers) remained unbeaten throughout the First Filipino Non-Pro Bowling League season to win the championship on Friday.

Caloocan dominated all their games since the start of the tournament, except for the first week, and subdued all their opponents.

In the championship game, Caloocan were given a tough fight by Manila, who earlier on beat Pas



## SPORTS

## Jahangir and Jansher post easy wins

MADRID, March 5, (Reuters): Jansher Khan and Jahangir Khan displayed their squash supremacy as they posted semifinal wins in the Spanish Open today to set up the prospect of an exciting final.

The two rivals from Pakistan both disposed of their opponents almost effortlessly in straight games.

World champion and number one Jansher played superbly to beat former world champion Ross Norman of New Zealand 9-19-59-1 in 40 minutes.

Norman, who has taken five games off Jansher in their three previous meetings, never got close as the 18-year-old champion played solid accurate shots and forced mistakes.

Former king of squash Jahangir, who was toppled from his top spot at the turn of the year, wiped out sixth seed Chris Robertson of Australia in just 25 minutes, 9-2-9-19-0.

Jahangir controlled play from the start and had Robertson running all over the court and the Australian hit several shots into the tin in the first game.

**Showdown**  
Jahangir then served two aces and Robertson lost his rhythm. From then on, he just could not get a shot right.

Tomorrow's showdown promises much. In the world semifinals in October Jansher beat Jahangir in four games.

Yesterday Jansher had to work harder than usual for his 9-3-9-6-4 quarterfinal success over Rodney Martin.

The Australian produced some fine volleys, but threw away his chances by hitting the tin with 14 shots in the last two games.

Jahangir yesterday surprisingly dropped a game in a hard, fast match against Del Harris of Britain before reaching the semifinals with a 9-19-0-4-9-5-5.

Jahangir lost concentration after taking the first two games in less than 10 minutes each and hit five shots into the tin in the third as the 18-year-old Briton produced some brilliant shots just above it.

Harris went ahead 5-4 in the fourth game before Jahangir reasserted himself.

## Biasion set to win in Portugal

TOMAR, Portugal, March 5, (Reuters): Massimo Biasion of Italy was poised for victory in the Portuguese Rally today after he tightened his grip on the lead in the first section of the fourth and final leg.

Driving a Lancia Integrale, the Italian went into the last two special stages with a lead of eight minutes 29 seconds over nearest rival Alessandro Fiorio of Italy in a Lancia Delta.

Barring last-minute technical problems, Biasion's win — his first in the Portuguese race — was certain and attention focused on the exciting fight for second place between Fiorio and his works team-mate Yves Loubet of France, separated by just 13 seconds.

Leading standings after the first section of the fourth and final leg (provisional times):

1. Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia Integrale six hours 24 mins. 19 secs; 2. Alessandro Fiorio (Italy) Lancia Delta, 6:32:48; 3. Yves Loubet (France) Lancia Delta, 6:33:01; 4. Hannu Mikkola (Finland) Mazda 32, 6:35:10; 5. Sigi Blomqvist (Sweden) Ford Sierra, 6:36:13; 6. Markku Alen (Finland) Lancia Integrale, 6:37:36; 7. Erwin Weber (West Germany) Golf GTI, 6:47:35; 8. Ivarero Amaral (Portugal) Renault 11, 6:50:41; 9. Carlos Bica (Portugal) Lancia Delta, 6:56:45; 10. Jorge Roa (Argentina) Lancia Integrale, 6:59:03.

## England need 130 runs to avoid follow-on

WELLINGTON, March 5, (Reuters): England were fighting to avoid the follow-on on the third day of the third Test today after notching up 183 for two wickets in reply to New Zealand's 512 for six declared.

On a pitch where only eight wickets have fallen in three days a draw looked the most likely result, but England still need another 130 to avoid the follow-on.

## Assistance

The pitch was showing no sign of undue wear and gave the spin bowlers only moderate assistance.

After a fighting opening partnership of 129, England lost two quick wickets, but regrouped in an unbroken third wicket stand of 51 to leave them in relative safety. Martyn Moxon on 81 and Mike Gatting on 33 were not out.

Chris Broad and Moxon gave England a splendid start, punished the fast bowling of Danany Morrison and played the spin-

## UNITED SUFFER SURPRISE DEFEAT AGAINST NORWICH

## Liverpool edge QPR to home in on Leeds' record

LONDON, March 5, (Reuters): Liverpool, whose only challenge to their supremacy has come from the ghosts of champions past, moved within one game of Leeds United's 14-year-old English First Division record today.

A 1-0 victory at Queen's Park Rangers, John Barnes scoring after 36 minutes, took Liverpool's unbeaten League run since the opening Saturday last August to 28 games, one short of Leeds' unsurpassed start to the 1973-74 season.

With a 17-point lead over second-placed Manchester United, plus the added cushion of two games in hand, Liverpool can be expected to complete their 10th championship triumph in 16 years some time before the end of the campaign on May 7.

United fell 1-0 at Norwich, Robert Fleck scoring the only goal in the 76th minute, and third-placed Nottingham Forest remained a distant 20 points in arrears after a single goal victory at Sheffield Wednesday, courtesy of England midfielder Neil Webb.

While such dominance may be bad for the game as a whole, it at least encourages the romantic notion that Liverpool could go through the entire league season undefeated.

Having amassed 72 points from 28 games, Liverpool are quoted at 5-2 by London bookmakers to survive the remaining 12 matches with their unbeaten run intact — a possibility which can even bring a smile of pleasure to the face of player-manager Kenny Dalglish.

"The novelty of winning never wears off with us," he said. "No-one has been blasé about winning since I joined the club and I doubt if anyone ever will be then."

Liverpool have a well-publicised distrust of Queen's Park Rangers' artificial pitch and it took them 30 minutes to adjust to the high bounce provided by the plastic surface.

But their command became increasingly apparent and they moved in front when England colleague Peter Beardsley and Barnes combined to typically deadly effect.

Beardsley wriggled clear on the edge of the penalty area, slipped the ball to Craig Johnston — a late replacement for the injured John Aldridge — and when QPR goalkeeper David Seaman parried the Australian's shot, Barnes pounced to prod the ball into the empty net.

With Manchester United stumbling to another surprise defeat, Brian Clough's young Forest side remained the likeliest



McColist: scored for Rangers

looking runners-up after a typically efficient win at Sheffield Wednesday.

Webb struck the only goal with a crisp low cross shot after 14 minutes and thereafter Forest

seldom allowed Wednesday a glimmer of a chance to draw level.

Glasgow rivals Celtic and Rangers continued their dogfight at the top of the Scottish

## Wales win triple crown in thriller

DUBLIN, March 5, (Reuters): Wales landed the triple crown for the first time since 1979 today with a thrilling 12-9 victory over Ireland gained in the dying minutes of a see-saw rugby match.

A penalty by fullback Paul Thorburn gave Wales a triumph they richly deserved after a nail-biting second half when they constantly kept up the pressure on the fiercely determined Irish.

Penalties were constantly wasted by both sides in the swirling wind. Irish centre Michael Kiernan missing five in a nightmare first half and Thorburn missing four in the second half before putting away the one that really counted.

"The wind was very difficult.

That was what decided the game today," Welsh flyhalf Jonathan Davies said after his country had achieved a hat-trick of wins against the three other teams from the British Isles — Scotland, England and now Ireland.

**Fists**  
But victory looked far from certain in a scrappy first half when tempers flared and fists flew in the scrum.

Ireland led 9-3 at halftime thanks to a try by hooker Gerry Kingston. Kiernan brought his international tally for Ireland to 200 points, but it will be the memory of the missed penalties that will haunt him.

Wales, fluid and self-confident

in attack, gained the upperhand speedily in the second half with a quick try by number eight Paul Moriarty that Thornburn converted.

Then came the high drama of the cliffhanger finish that gave Wales victory and a chance for the Grand Slam.

In Edinburgh, fullback Jonathan Webb kicked England to a 9-6 victory over Scotland in a dull and dour match in the Five Nations Rugby Union Championship today.

After a scoreless first half, the lanky 24-year-old struck two penalties as England, with a drop goal by flyhalf Rob Andrew, grabbed their first away win in the championship since 1982.

Scottish fullback Gavin Hastings replied with two penalties but neither side threatened to score tries despite the perfect conditions.

The first half was characterised by scrappy open play as both sets of backs kicked poorly and launched very few penetrative moves.

**Convert**  
Hastings, who looked the only real threat for the Scots, had the chance to put his side ahead in the first quarter of an hour but failed to convert three long-range penalties.

Webb also struggled to find his kicking form in the first half and fired wide with efforts in the 22nd, 30th and 34th minutes.

## Imran fights for match fitness

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 5, (Reuters): Imran Khan is fighting for match fitness after coming out of retirement as Pakistan prepare for the first match of their Caribbean tour against the President's XI starting tomorrow.

"I'm not at 100 per cent yet," Imran said during practice yesterday. "I've started training these past two weeks and only very gently as I didn't want to pull a muscle after a complete lay-off."

**Virtually**  
The inspirational all-rounder and captain who retired from international cricket after the World Cup last November, said he had done "virtually nothing

for three months."

Imran said Pakistan were poised to become the world's top team if they beat the West Indies in the three-Test series, only the third Pakistani Caribbean tour and their first since 1977.

"If we win ... it is really going for the top, so that is why I decided to come back and why the pressure was so great for me to return," said Imran, who answered a personal appeal by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to come out of retirement.

The Pakistani team has not been announced for the four-day match, their only fixture before the first one-day international. The President's XI includes mostly players seeking to win or

regain places in the West Indies Test side and could provide tough opposition.

It is captained by Roger Harper, who has missed most of the West Indies season because of a knee operation and includes Test all-rounder Carl Hooper.

Leeward Islands in-form batsman Keith Artherton, who is thought to be on the verge of a Test call-up, is also in the side.

**Teams:**  
President's XI: Roger Harper (captain), Phil Simmons, Carlisle Best, Wayne Lewis, Keith Artherton, Carl Hooper, Thelston Payne, David Williams, Winston Benjamin, Tony Gray and Ian Bishop.  
Pakistan: to be announced.

## Soviet Union

## defeat US

MOSCOW, March 5, (Reuters): The Soviet Union beat the United States 8-4 in an amateur boxing international in the Olympic Sports Palace yesterday.

Bomani Parker was the most decisive US winner in the lightweight (81 kg) class. The referee stopped his bout midway through the second round when Soviet champion Dmitri Yeliseyev's cut eye worsened.

## E. Germans take two titles

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 5, (AP): East Germany's powerful team captured two of the first four titles on the opening day of the European Indoor Track and Field Championship today.

Heike Drechsler beat her own tournament record by leaping 7.30 metres in the long jump while Cornelia Oschkenat missed the world record by three-hundredths of a second as she clocked 7.77 seconds in the women's 60-metre hurdles.

Britain's Linford Christie successfully completed the first leg of

a unique sprint double by winning the men's 60-metre dash in 6.57 seconds. Ronald Desruelles of Belgium took the silver medal in 6.60 and Valentin Atanasov of Bulgaria the bronze in the same time.

Christie is also going for the 200-metre title, a double no one has achieved indoors.

The men's shot putt title went to Czechoslovakia's Remigius Machura with a heave of 21.42. Karsten Stolz of West Germany was second with 20.22.

## UAE beat

## Kuwait to top table

UNITED Arab Emirates beat Kuwait 1-0 to score its second consecutive victory yesterday in the 9th Gulf Football Championship to lead the standings with four points from two games. The tournament is being held in Saudi Arabia.

The only goal of the match was scored in the 79th minute by Zuhair Bakheet, who is the top scorer in the UAE League this season. UAE also missed a penalty in the first half.

**Chance**  
Kuwait had a goal disallowed when the referee ruled hand ball after Bader Al Anbari had placed the ball into the net. In injury time Al Anbari missed another chance to put Kuwait on equal terms when he shot wide from four metres with only the goalkeeper to beat.

The referee sent off two players during the game, including Salah Al-Hasawi of Kuwait.

After two matches, UAE are followed by Saudi Arabia with three points. Qatar have two points from two matches while Kuwait, Iraq and Oman have one each. Bahrain have yet to get a point.

Premier League with smooth wins against moderate opposition.

League leaders Celtic beat Falkirk 2-0 with goals from Andy Walker and Mark McGhee, while Rangers, beaten 2-0 by Steaua Bucharest in the European Cup in midweek, gained some consolation against Dunfermline.

Returning to the scene of their shock Scottish Cup exit two weeks ago, Rangers won 3-0 with goals from Ally McCoist — who underwent a cartilage operation just 11 days ago — former Aston Villa striker Mark Walters and Scotland defender Richard Gough.

With nine games remaining, Celtic enjoy a six-point advantage.

## Results

| English Division One                  |   |              |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Cowen                                 | 3 | Chelsea      |
| Derby                                 | 1 | Charlton     |
| Everton                               | 1 | Newcastle    |
| Norwich                               | 1 | Manchester U |
| QPR                                   | 1 | Liverpool    |
| Sheff Wed                             | 0 | Not Forest   |
| Watford                               | 0 | Southampton  |
| West Ham                              | 1 | Oxford       |
| Wimbledon                             | 2 | Luton        |
| Playing tomorrow: Arsenal v Tottenham |   |              |

## English Division Two

|              |   |             |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| Bournemouth  | 1 | Aston Villa |
| Birmingham   | 1 | Bradford    |
| Crystal P    | 3 | Oldham      |
| Huddersfield | 0 | Reading     |
| Hull         | 1 | Barnsley    |

## Scottish Division One

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
| Airdrie    | 0 | Maidowbank |
| Cydebank   | 1 | Clyde      |
| Forfar     | 4 | Dumfries   |
| Partick    | 0 | Hamilton   |
| Queen of S | 2 | East Fife  |
| Raith      | 2 | Kilmarnock |

## Scottish Division Two

|               |   |              |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| Arbroath      | 4 | Albion       |
| Ayr           | 5 | Cowdenbeath  |
| E Striving    | 1 | Stranraer    |
| Queen's Park  | 2 | Berwick      |
| Stenhousemuir | 3 | St Johnstone |
| Stirling      | 4 | Alloa        |

## Postponed: Brechin v Montrose.

## Postponed: Motherwell v Hearts

## Postponed: Dundee U v Dundee

## Postponed: Aberdeen v

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## English Division Three

|              |   |             |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| Aldershot    | 1 | York        |
| Bristol City | 1 | Grimsby     |
| Bury         | 0 | Port Vale   |
| Chester      | 0 | Bristol R   |
| Chesham      | 0 | Northampton |
| Fulham       | 3 | Wigan       |
| Gillingham   | 0 | Mansfield   |
| Notts County | 2 | Doncaster   |
| Preston      | 3 | Brighton    |
| Rotherham    | 1 | Southend    |
| Sunderland   | 2 | Blackpool   |
| Walsall      | 4 | Brentford   |

## English Division Four

|             |   |            |
|-------------|---|------------|
| Barnley     | 3 | Exeter     |
| Cambridge   | 2 | Leyton O   |
| Carlisle    | 0 | Bolton     |
| Darlington  | 2 | Rochdale   |
| Doncaster   | 2 | Swansea    |
| Scarborough | 2 | Crewe      |
| Scunthorpe  | 3 | Hartlepool |
| Torquay     | 2 | Hartlepool |

## Scottish Division One

|             |   |          |
|-------------|---|----------|
| Celtic      | 2 | Falkirk  |
| Dundee      | 0 | Rangers  |
| Dunfermline | 0 | Dundee U |
| Hibernian   | 0 | Dundee U |
| St Mirren   | 0 | Aberdeen |

## Scottish Division Two

|               |   |              |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| Arbroath      | 4 | Albion       |
| Ayr           | 5 | Cowdenbeath  |
| E Striving    | 1 | Stranraer    |
| Queen's Park  | 2 | Berwick      |
| Stenhousemuir | 3 | St Johnstone |
| Stirling      | 4 | Alloa        |

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